

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Winter warmers
Suzy Menkes on the
revived greatcoat
tailored like a triangle



Our missing heroine
Part Two of the Agatha Christie story, in which the author disappears
The morals of war
Roger Scruton on why Britain was right to sink the Belgrano
Superman goes East
Daley Thompson is among the British contenders in China's international competition

Portfolio

\$52,000 to be won

A total of \$52,000 is available to be won in *The Times Portfolio* competition this week. As last Saturday's £20,000 weekly prize was not won, next Saturday's is doubled to £40,000. There is also the usual £2,000 daily prize all this week.

Saturday's daily prize was won by Mrs Tran Diemhien Trelease, of Woking, Surrey. *Portfolio* rules and how to play, back page information service; daily list - page 18.

Rail fares to be revamped

British Rail's special offers are to be simplified in a revamped fares structure to come into effect in May. Some long-distance return fares will be cheaper than the existing ordinary single ticket. The overhaul is aimed at winning back passengers from coaches and is expected to produce an extra £10m a year. **Page 3**

Ogarkov falls

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, former Soviet Chief of Staff and Deputy Defence Minister, has been demoted to head the General Staff Academy, a fall from power to obscurity. **Page 6**

'New' Thatcher?

A remodelled media image for Mrs Margaret Thatcher may be unveiled at the Conservative Party conference, after strategy discussions with her advisers. **Page 2**

Israeli cuts

Israel's new Government has slashed \$1bn (£780m) from the present \$20bn budget as the start of an economic programme that will reduce living standards to 1982 levels. **Page 6**

Democrat gloom

The Democrats are beginning to despair at Mr Walter Mondale's failure to narrow the gap in the polls between himself and President Reagan. **Page 6**

Borrie attack

Insurance sales practices are often a source of shame, Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of Fair Trading, said in a wide-ranging attack on the industry. **Page 19**

Home James

Mark James sunk a long putt at the last hole to give England a stunning victory over Spain in the final of the Hennessy Cognac Cup yesterday. **Page 23**

Leader pages 13

Letters: On the Attorney General's Washington visit from Sir Patrick Mayhew; on Prince Pincham's speech from Mr R. Pincham; on taxing books from Mrs S. Andrews. **Page 13**

Features, pages 10-12

Responsibility: the Liberals' priority; can the TUC find a solution to the miners' strike; Angola's diamond trials; Part one of the Agatha Christie story: Why boxing in public is losing favour. **Page 10-12**

Obituary, page 14

Dr Charles Lynch: Mr Desmond Hill. **Page 14**

Home News, 2-4

Overseas, 5-7; Religion, 14; Sports, 14, 20; Science, 14; Arts, 8; Short, 22-25; Business, 18-21; TV & Radio, 29; Court, 14; Theatre, etc, 29; Crossword, 30; Weather, 30.

Acas seeks resumption of pit strike peace talks

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Fresh peace moves in the pit strike are expected from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) after miners' leaders yesterday confirmed their rejection of the National Coal Board's "final" offer on colliery closures. As the stoppage goes into its 28th week today, Acas officials are in touch with both sides in the dispute in the hope of bringing them back together, despite the breakdown of negotiations three days ago.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said after a meeting of his executive committee in Sheffield: "There have been suggestions that people will be asking us to meet them very shortly to put our side of the case, and for them to listen to the board's case as well."

"If this is done, we shall certainly put our case to them within the next few days, but a negotiated settlement will still have to be between the board and the union."

The union would clearly respond to an Acas initiative, but the position of the coal board is less clear. Mr Ian McGregor, its chairman, ruled out third-party intervention in the dispute when the talks collapsed last Friday.

It is normal practice for Acas only to become involved in seeking a solution to a dispute when both sides agree to participate in its peace-making efforts.

Mr Pat Lowry, its chairman, has kept in touch with the parties throughout the six-month-long strike, and has had meetings with Mr Scargill and Mr McGregor.

The role of Acas would be to restart the peace process, rather than to adjudicate or arbitrate. "In the hope that our case could be listened to and the board's

case heard so that a negotiated settlement could then be concluded", Mr Scargill said.

TUC leaders are being kept in close contact with developments, and are understood to approve of Acas intervention, despite the trade union movement's own plans to make the pit strike more effective by enlisting support in power stations and steel works.

Electricity supply unions meet today to determine what, if any, support they will give to the striking miners by "black"ing coal and substitute oil supplies to power stations.

Moderate unions want a ballot or no action at all.

Cracks in Cabinet 2
Third opinion? 12
Leading article 13

although some of the manual unions are ready to ban overtime vital to the deployment of substitute fuels.

The NUM national executive unanimously supported the action of their three national officials in rejecting the board's peace package, which included a formula for closing pits which mining engineers deem exhausted because "there are no further reserves which can be developed to provide the board in line with their responsibilities with a basis for continuing operations".

The Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Peter Walker said that on "the present position" of the miners' strike there would be no power cuts "until way into 1985".

Mr Walker, speaking on BBC radio, mounted another government assault on what he called the absurd demands of the NUM, and claimed that Mr Scargill's refusal to hold a ballot demonstrated the thinness of the union's case.

Clyde pact signals end to dock strike

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The three-week national dock strike is almost certain to be called off by the end of the week after agreement between union leaders and employers on the use of private contractors at the Hunterston terminal on the Clyde.

Transport and General Workers' Union officials will call a delegate conference later this week to ratify the agreement and also the deal agreed with the corporation on quotas for coal supplies to the Ravenscraig steel plant near Motherwell.

Yesterday's meeting between the corporation, Scottish dock leaders and the Clyde Port of Authority was called to resolve the position of 12 boatmen who carry ropes from ships to the quayside during dockings at Hunterston. The transport union feared that the corporation was intending to use only private companies to do the work.

The agreement, reached after more than five and a half hours of talks, fell short of the union's insistence that no "scab" labour should be used at Hunterston, but dock leaders said that they were "relatively happy" with assurances given by the Corporation on job security for the men.

The fears over the men's future arose out of the corporation's decision three weeks ago to use a private company to bring in the Ostia, which was

carrying urgently needed coking coal for Ravenscraig and which sparked off the national strike.

Mr John Hardie, the union's Scottish docks officer, said after the meeting: "The main reason for the strike has been removed. The use of scab labour was the cause of the strike and we are happy that the future prospects of our people at Hunterston are secure."

But Mr James Dunbar, works director at Ravenscraig, said the corporation's policy on the use of private firms remained unchanged. No undertaking had been given to the union that the management would not use private contractors if it was felt necessary.

The national strike, which appears to be edging slowly to an end, has never secured the support of more than about half of the country's 14,500 registered dock workers. Employers have said that 65 per cent of goods normally travelling through British ports has been handled during the strike.

The deal on coal quotas for Ravenscraig, which will rise over eight weeks from the present 18,000 tonnes a week to the 22,500 tonnes demanded by the corporation and yesterday's agreement on berthing arrangements, appeared to be substantial compromise by the union, which called the strike as part of its policy of supporting the miner's dispute.

Transport union officials are likely to recommend acceptance

Debut of Prince Henry Charles Albert David



Family of four: The Princess of Wales carrying her new son from the hospital, and earlier visitors, the Prince of Wales and Prince William

Cheering crowds as Princess leaves hospital

By Alan Hamilton

Prince Henry Charles Albert David, second child of the Prince and Princess of Wales and third in line of succession to the throne, left the austerity of hospital for the comfort of his Royal home yesterday afternoon, less than 24 hours after his birth.

Cradled by his mother and watched over by his adoring father, Prince Harry - as he is to be known - made his first journey in the back of a blue Daimler in a little more than six minutes, cheered by a large crowd of press and well-wishers who had kept vigil by the door of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, since news of the imminent arrival first reached the outside world on Saturday afternoon.

Hours later, the Prince of Wales celebrated the birth with an impromptu champagne party from the back of a Land Rover at Smith's Lawn polo ground, in Windsor.

Photo pals shook the Prince by the hand and drank "bubbly" from plastic Pimms cups after a friendly match in which he had played. It had been organized to mark the big event.

The Princess, aged 23, accompanied by her husband, had arrived at the Lindo Wing of the hospital, sited in a distinctly unglamorous west London back street with a view over the railway yards, at 7.30 on Saturday morning from Windsor Castle, where the couple had been staying for the weekend.

In labour for nine hours

After a nine-hour labour, the Princess delivered the 6lb 14oz boy at 4.30 on Saturday afternoon, aided by a medical team under the direction of Mr George Pinker, surgeon-gynaecologist to the Queen. The room, which despite its £140 a day rate is sparsely and functionally furnished, was the same one in which the couple's first child, Prince William, was born more than two years ago.

The birth was reported to be uncomplicated. Prince Charles, who had been present throughout as he had been at the birth of Prince William, told the crowd that the delivery had been "much quicker than last time", and that the baby had pale blue eyes and a hair of indeterminate colour, a colour which in fact was seen to be dark brown when Prince Henry emerged yesterday.

The Princess left hospital at 2.30 yesterday afternoon with her baby and accompanied by her husband, for the short drive to Kensington Palace. Earlier in the day Prince Charles had taken Prince William to the hospital for a brief introduction to his new brother.

Immediately after the birth, Prince Charles telephoned the Queen, who is at Balmoral and who will return to London later this week to see the baby before flying on her postponed visit to Canada. The Prince next telephoned the Princess's father, Lord Spencer, at his home at Althorp, Northants; the Earl immediately flew the family flag above the house and shouted the news from a balcony to visiting tourists.

Thanksgiving service

Yesterday at St Mary's Parish Church, Tetbury, near the couple's country home of Highgrove House, there was a packed service of thanksgiving and a celebratory three-hour peal of bells.

Bells were also rung at the parish church on the royal estate at Sandringham, Norfolk, where the Princess was born. Among the many hundreds of messages of congratulation to the royal couple was one from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who was spending the weekend at Chequers.

The Lindo Wing has become the standard birthplace for royal babies. Traditionally, royalty were born at home but Mr Pinker, who is consulting obstetrician at the hospital, changed all that when he persuaded the Royal Family to accept his professional view of childbirth, which is that no chances should be taken. St Mary's is well equipped with the most up-to-date medical apparatus in case of any complication.

Princess Anne's first child, Peter Phillips, was the first to be born at St Mary's under Mr Pinker's care, and Prince Henry is the ninth.

The baby assumes third place in line of succession to the throne, after the Prince of Wales and Prince William.

In the history of the House of Windsor, 111 have cast the second-born on to the throne with remarkable frequency. Edward VII, Queen Victoria's second child, succeeded because her first was a daughter. King George V succeeded because his elder brother, the Duke of Clarence, died prematurely. King George VI succeeded because his elder brother chose Mrs Wallis Simpson in preference to his inherited duty.

Even Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader and not hitherto a noted royalist, was moved to comment on the birth yesterday. Asked after a meeting in Sheffield what he thought of the Prince's name, he replied: "Thank God it's not Ian."

More reports and photograph, back page

Common touch at St Mary's

By Hiltaire Gomer who gave birth to a 7lb 15oz baby girl, Angela, shortly after Prince Henry was born at the same hospital, St Mary's, Paddington.

All the hospital staff and mothers-to-be in the National Health Alect Bourne maternity ward at St Mary's felt for the Princess of Wales. Giving birth is an intensely intimate, undignified and often painful affair.

To know that the street below was filling with well-wishers expecting you to produce a perfect infant as quickly and as easily as opening a fete must have added to her tension.

We all agreed with the mother-to-be who said: "It must be worse for her, with everyone around trying to pretend she is just another mum, while in fact they are praying she will get through with no drama."

Everyone was guessing and rumour was rife, but nobody really knew what was going on in the Lindo's fourth floor where the Princess was. One senior labour ward nurse said rather grandly that she had "nothing to do with private patients" when somebody asked her if she "knew the latest".

When news of the birth was announced just before half past five on Saturday I was still in labour. But happily just after six

Continued on back page, col 1



Belgrano prosecution

Confusion over Heseltine role

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Government sources were yesterday disavowing of the suggestion by Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, that the prosecution of Mr Clive Ponting, a senior official in the Ministry of Defence, accused of passing on documents about the Belgrano affair, was brought at the insistence of Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, against the advice of senior civil servants and in breach of established conventions.

However, no minister or official spokesman would make any public denial. It was said that Mr Kinnock, who made his charges in a long letter to the Prime Minister sent on Friday, would receive an answer "in due course".

There was similar reluctance to take issue publicly with a report in *The Observer* which purported to give details of

discussions between Mr Heseltine and the acting senior official in his department, Mr Ewen Broadbent, on an occasion in August.

The report stated that Mr Broadbent told the minister that prosecution of Mr Ponting under the Official Secrets Act was not recommended, but that Mr Heseltine surprised officials by insisting that the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, be called on to agree to a prosecution.

The *Observer* account referred to a minute of the meeting kept by a private secretary on which Mr Kinnock's letter to the Prime Minister was believed to have been based.

A spokesman for Mr Kinnock said yesterday that he and his staff had not seen such a minute, but were aware of its contents. **Letter texts, page 2**

Rama Rao restored to power

From Michael Hamlyn Bombay

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, finally bowed to the political realities in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and allowed her Governor there to dismiss the unfortunate Chief Minister, Mr Nandela Bhaskara Rao, and to install in his place the man he supplanted, Mr N T Rama Rao.

The Governor, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, announced in Hyderabad that he had accepted Mr Bhaskara Rao's reluctant resignation and had asked Mr Rama Rao to form a ministry since he commanded the majority of the legislative assembly.

Dr Dayal has given Mr Rama Rao one month to prove his majority in the Legislative Assembly. **Full report, page 5**

Tory conference may see an updated image of Thatcher

By David Walker

A "new Mrs Thatcher" may be unveiled at the Conservative Party conference next month, after a series of strategy discussions with her closest advisers.

The remodelled media image for the Prime Minister, adjusted if she has to stand firm during what the miners' strike might make a winter of discontent, was the subject of a meeting held at the weekend at Chequers.

Mrs Thatcher's concern with her media appearance has been signalled by the return to Britain of Mr Gordon Reece, a former television producer and publicity chief at Conservative Central Office, who has worked closely with her for nearly a decade.

The Prime Minister's renewed interest in presentation has been reflected in recent moves which further consolidate the power and influence within the official government information network of her press secretary, Mr Bernard Ingham.

Press officers schooled at 10 Downing Street are now moving to take top jobs in the Whitehall ministries; the latest of these was the transfer of Mr Ingham's deputy, Miss Romola Christopherson, to become head of information in the politically sensitive Department of Energy.

It all adds up to what one colleague called Mr Ingham's unparalleled ascendancy in government public relations.

Much thought is being given to how the Prime Minister might best be showcased at the party conference. Mr Reece believes that colour is important. It is understood that this year the traditional blues of

conference backdrops might have a steel-grey tinge, suitable for presenting the Prime Minister as a strong leader in adversity.

Mr Reece's return from his post as a vice-president of the Armand Hammer trading organization in Los Angeles comes strikingly soon after he contributed to Mrs Thatcher's huge election victory last year.

Mr Reece, who taught Mrs Thatcher to lower her voice, is regarded as a "talismen" who successfully recast her image to win the 1979 election.

As part of a team including Mr Cecil Parkinson and Mr Christopher Lawson, a former Mars executive who became the Conservative Party's first director of marketing, Mr Reece guided Mrs Thatcher's use of radio and television in the run-up to last year's election.

His status with the Conservative Party is a little unclear. When he talked recently to Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, he is said merely to have "offered his services voluntarily to work for the party".

It seems that he is dividing his time between Mrs Thatcher and a consultancy at British Airways, where he is understood to be advising the chairman, Lord King, on the airline's energetic campaign to retain its routes and prepare for privatization.

Mr Ingham, although a permanent civil servant, ranks as one of the closest of Mrs Thatcher's entourage, both as an adviser on presentation and a powerful executive who briefs the parliamentary lobby and keeps the Whitehall public relations machine in line.



Off to war: Troops bound for Dover beach and, at Pirbright, in Surrey, Anne Bond, a reserve with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, getting kitted out (Photographs: Suresh Karadia and Murray Job).

Playing at war to live in peace

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

4,000 vehicles headed across the Channel.

It was all part of Exercise Lionheart, an endeavour to prove that Britain could and would get reinforcements to West Germany if ever war threatened.

Large numbers of regular soldiers and their equipment had moved out during last week, and over the weekend it was the turn of the Territorials. They made their move amid comments of military disaffection such as "it's all order, counter-order and disorder" and "it's all hurry up and wait", which sounded odd coming from part-time volunteers who must be assumed to be doing it at least partly for fun.

For those who crossed by sea, the initial destination was a rain-swept stretch of Belgium

road, which fell just short of motorway standard. Sitting midway between Ostend and Zeebrugge, it had been closed to public traffic and set aside for the marshalling of British vehicles and men just off the boats, as they set out on the 300-mile haul to deployment points in West Germany.

Lieutenant-Colonel Barry Smeeton and his colleagues have for the last week been sorting out the disordered groups of vehicles which have come out of the docks, shaped them into convoys, and dispatched them eastwards at the rate of about one an hour.

An exercise such as this, is war played in a civilian environment, and though the British would like to see their convoys formed of 150 vehicles, most of them have been limited to 100, at least partly because

of the need to keep civilian traffic flowing. Lt-Col Smeeton, nevertheless, paid tribute to the weekend to the "cooperation and friendliness" of the Belgian authorities.

For the British troops the journey to the main assembly point of the First British Corps at Sennelager, north of Paderborn, is a long slog. Many had made lengthy journeys through Britain to the Channel ports and, after a sea crossing of at least four hours, they faced a journey to Sennelager which was a theoretical seventeen-and-a-half hours.

Once there, they faced about ten days of free play (war style) with the danger that rain will reduce the playground to mud. But that the peace movement will have turned round need signs. "If they do, we'll simply turn them back again", a

British military policeman said.

At Heathrow airport about 9,000 TA members, dressed in full combat gear and carrying either 7.62mm self-loading rifles or Stirling sub-machine guns, went off on 32 flights between Saturday morning and early this morning, but regular passengers missed the operation. The soldiers arrived discreetly at the cargo entrance, in double-deck buses.

The men and women had "checked in" first at the Army's disused Victoria Barracks at nearby Windsor. About 1,000 of the expected 10,000 did not turn up.

At Manchester, a battered two-birth caravan standing against the wall of Hanger 5 was the nerve centre of the military airlift from Ringway yesterday.

As dawn broke, Major Brian Lucas, emerged from the caravan after snatching two hours sleep and resumed his job as OC Movement Control Checkpoint.

Segregation deal may end hunger strike

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

The Northern Ireland Office is expected today to agree to the "administrative separation" of "loyalist" and republican inmates at Magilligan prison, in Londonderry, as the price of ending the hunger strike by 10 loyalist prisoners.

Mr Nicholas Scott, the Northern Ireland Office junior minister responsible for prisons, is believed ready to accept that the de facto segregation in force for more than a year at the Maze too security reasons should be extended to Magilligan.

Appropriately clad in face-saving terminology, the decision is expected to be announced after a meeting at Stormont this morning between Mr Scott and seven representatives of the Committee for Loyalist Prisoners' Rights, led by Mr Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast East.

Mr Robinson visited Magilligan's hospital on Saturday to talk to four loyalists who have gone the longest without food. He said their condition had deteriorated markedly since he saw them the previous Tuesday, with at least one now hallucinating.

"We have to get a solution to this problem very soon as time is running out", he said last night.

The first two hunger strikers, William Harris and Thomas Harris, are today on their twenty-ninth day without food, and the other two in the hospital are on their twenty-second. The remaining six are being held in normal cells, apart from other inmates.

Mr Robinson said this morning's deputation would press for a consistent policy on segregation. "A consistent policy is all the prisoners are asking for. De facto segregation has ensured the safety of inmates at the Maze from attack."

Meanwhile, Mr Douglas Hurd, the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, today begins his first formal meetings with Ulster's political parties, meeting leaders from the Democratic Unionists and the Alliance Party. He will see Official Unionists tomorrow and the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party next Monday.

Steel fears new policy on cruise

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has decided to intervene in the key debate on defence at the party's annual assembly this week in an attempt to prevent the adoption of an anti-nuclear policy that might endanger the alliance with the Social Democratic Party.

He has indicated to the assembly organizers that he will want to be called to speak if the voting looks as if it will be close at the end of the debate on Thursday.

Mr Steel and Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, regard the outcome of the debate as crucial to their hopes of closer working relations.

The immediate danger, from two leaders' point of view, is that the assembly, which opens in Bournemouth tomorrow, will vote for the removal of cruise missiles from Britain, instead of remaining content with the present policy of the two parties which is a freeze on further deployment of cruise.

There will be a pre-assembly discussion on the issue today and the chair will be taken by Mr Paddy Ashdown, MP for Yeovil, who was mainly responsible in a passionate speech to the 1981 assembly at Llandudno for the passing of a resolution that called for a non-nuclear Europe and a campaign against the siting of cruise in Britain.

That reversed the party's previous position, and Mr Steel aggravated the feelings of the strong unilateralist element among Liberals by pointing out immediately that the parliamentary party was not bound by assembly decisions.

There was some embarrassment in the party yesterday over the criticism made by Mr Stephen Ross, MP for the Isle of Wight, of Mr Steel's performance in relation to Dr Owen's television yesterday. Mr Ross said the party felt Mr Steel had been more outspoken, and that he had been, on the whole, too much in Dr Owen's shadow.

Mr Ross, who described Dr Owen as "the natural opposition spokesman", said the Alliance had to have a single leader before the next election, and he would be perfectly prepared to accept Dr Owen. In a phrase that Mr Ross's defenders believe must have been harsher than he intended, he described Mr Steel as "a first-class deputy".

Geoffrey Smith, page 4

Unions seek unity to fight pay limits

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Unions representing more than 3,500,000 public service workers are planning an offensive against government pay limits in the new bargaining round.

The unions are trying to create a united front to oppose the expected 3 per cent pay guideline which the Government is expected to announce shortly, and they have drawn up seven principles for this winter's pay claims.

A statement from the TUC's public services committee issued today calls on the Government to think twice about the wisdom of attempting to set pay limits to prevent reasonable objectives being achieved.

A planning meeting of the public service unions is to be held next month.

The TUC principles include calls that public service workers' pay cannot be decided purely by market forces; lower pay does not mean more jobs; there should be a better deal for the low-paid.

Shame spurs SNP to new campaign

From Ronald Faux, Inverness

The Scottish National Party's fifteenth annual conference which closed at the weekend in Inverness left some alarming perceptions of Scotland.

Brainwashed, defeatist, bunkered in a self-made purgatory, and a focus of contemptuous amusement by uncaring Westminster, Scotland was also a place of poor opportunity and deprivation - with "parts" of Edinburgh even qualifying for Third World cash aid from Oxfam.

Mr Gordon Wilson, who returned unopposed as party chairman, went on ungliding the lily by admitting: "We are not nationalists because we are proud of our country and want to conserve the way it is. We are nationalists because we are ashamed of our country and want to improve it."

Delegates streamed out for lunch perhaps expecting to find Scottish society wearing sackcloth and ashes.

Instead, there was Inverness, neat and solid with the Ness flowing imperturbably to the sea, the Highlands and Islands Development Board handing

out grants and loans, and local industry on a straw poll, doing very nicely thank you.

Even so it was a good conference for the SNP with some powerful debate and none of the forecast splits between the right and left.

The decision to campaign for an elected Scottish constitutional convention was seen as some kind of tactical weapon in its argument for independence, in the absence of actual votes from the electorate.

The standing of the SNP is poor even on the most optimistic assessment and counting recent wins in the local elections.

Nationalists still reflect on the halcyon seventies when the party held more than 30 per cent of the Scottish vote and sent 11 MPs to Westminster. At that point, according to the party, Scotland lost its nerve. If failed to give the extra little support that would allow a claim for independence. After the devolution debacle and some damaging internal argument, SNP fortunes slumped.

Tests start on Iron Age body

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Scientists at the British Museum will begin tests this week on the 2,500 year-old body found last month in Cheshire with the aim of putting it on public show within two years.

Atomic researchers at Harwell have completed tests which have shown that the remarkably preserved body, discovered in a bog, dates from about 500 BC. This Iron Age specimen is the only one of its type, from a bog burial, in mainland Britain.

The body will be taken at the end of this week, still immersed in peat, from its temporary home, a mortuary in a London hospital, to the research laboratory at the British Museum.

The tests on the body will be conducted under the guidance of Dr Ian Stead.

Jermyns to sue

Lord Jermyn and his wife of four days, the former Miss Francesca Fisher, are to sue the gossip columnist Nigel Dempster and the Daily Mail over an article about the validity of a decree ending the countess's first marriage.

In an article published in the Daily Mail on September 10, Mr Dempster questioned the validity in English law of a Nevada decree ending Lady Jermyn's 1983 marriage to the musician Philip Jones.

The couple received a dispensation from the Archbishop of Canterbury for the wedding at the Earl's Ickworth Park estate on Friday.

Runcie urges TUC to meet coal board

The Archbishop of Canterbury urged the coal board and TUC to meet, pleading that the British ability for compromise should not be lost in the miners' dispute.

Speaking on Saturday in the mining village of Creswell, near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire, Dr Robert Runcie said he was not there to offer solutions to the strike but he hoped there would be a response to "Mr MacGregor's readiness to talk with the TUC".

More miners are supporting the strike in Derbyshire, according to a MOR poll to be broadcast on BBC Television's Panorama programme tonight.

Rebels' writs could affect attempt at fresh talks

By Our Labour Correspondent

Attempts to resurrect talks in the pits dispute could rapidly become overshadowed by legal manoeuvres as dissident miners seek to win High Court rulings ordering their union hold a national ballot on the strike.

Preliminary skirmishing will start on Thursday when three Derbyshire miners are due to emulate Lancashire and Nottinghamshire colleagues and go to the High Court to argue that the National Union of Mineworkers new rule 51, the so-called "star chamber" rule, is invalid.

Their argument will be that the new disciplinary procedure, which could be used against miners who have defied the strike, should be ruled unlawful.

Cracks in Cabinet's resolve

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The first cracks are beginning to appear in the Cabinet's resolve to beat the miners at all costs. But Mr Scargill and his colleagues should take little heart from the movement in ministers' attitudes, because Mrs Margaret Thatcher is showing no signs of doubt.

One senior Cabinet minister compares the Prime Minister's attitude to that shown during the Falklands conflict.

He says, however, that it would be foolish for Mrs Thatcher to think that any such clear-cut victory could be obtained against the miners.

Although ministers have been talking of a "drift" towards work, those who have returned to their Whitehall offices with little hope of such an outcome.

There is also considerable Cabinet-level criticism of Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman. It is widely felt that, whatever the outcome of the strike, the miners may well be perceived as the ultimate victors, if only because Mr MacGregor can be relied upon to "muff" his case on television.

Ministers' private criticism of Mr MacGregor is being seen as the beginning of a search for a scapegoat. But the biggest criticism of all among ministers who express concern about the course of the dispute is reserved for Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

It is said by those who have observed him in Downing Street meetings that he is standing behind the Prime Minister, encouraging her whenever she shows the slightest hint of faltering.

Mr Tebbit is blamed for maintaining and stimulating the Government's present "gun-

ho" attitude. One minister says that Mrs Thatcher is treating the dispute in terms of a Napoleonic war.

The comparison with Napoleon is taken further with the observation that the coming winter may begin to turn the tide against the Government. There is concern that Mrs Thatcher will be forced to retreat because of winter power cuts.

Ministers who are said to be susceptible to compromise include Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, although neither man has given any public indication of cracking.

It is thought that the attitude of Lord Whitclaw, the Lord President, could be critical in persuading the Prime Minister that the strike can no longer provide any winners.

New technique aids victims of asbestosis

By Tony Samstag

A recent disability finding by the London Medical Appeal Tribunal raises hopes for swifter and more generous compensation for victims of asbestosis-related diseases, the secretary of a charity said yesterday.

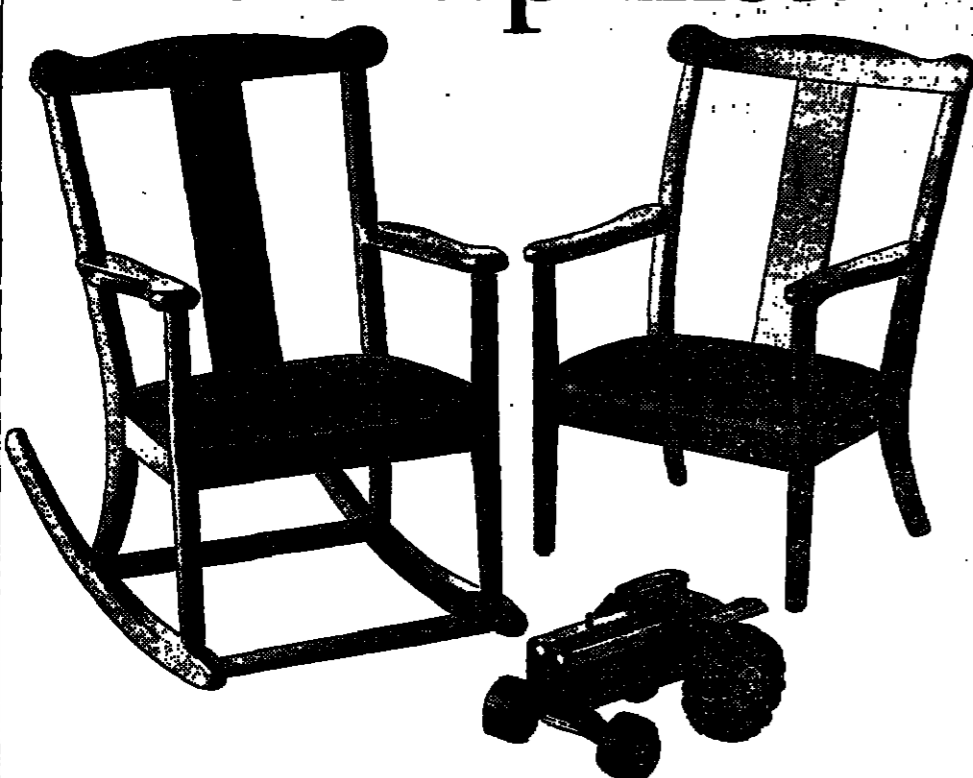
Mrs Nancy Tait, of the Society for the Prevention of Asbestosis and Industrial Diseases, said the tribunal's decision, announced last week, was the first to mention the new technique of broncho-alveolar lavage, a method of diagnosis being suggested at the London Chest Hospital.

The tribunal, noting that the results of lavage were compatible with a respiratory function test carried out at the London Chest Hospital, assessed the relevant disability of Mr Alfred Davis, aged 55, of Poplar, east London, at 40 per cent from March, 1982, for life.

Noele Gordon

Noele Gordon, the actress, was admitted to hospital yesterday less than a year after undergoing surgery for stomach cancer. The former Crossroads television star had been suffering stomach pains while playing in the musical No, No, Nanette at Plymouth's Theatre Royal.

A throne fit for a prince.



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British Rail plans 'saver ticket' to simplify plethora of cheap fares

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

British Rail will this week announce an overhaul of its fares structure to simplify the many cheap travel offers and win back passenger traffic lost to inter-city coaches.

Central to the plans is the consolidation of special off-peak fares into a nationally based saver ticket, which will lead to cuts in return fares on some long routes, making them cheaper than the cost of an ordinary single ticket.

The moves, which are expected to produce £10m a year of extra revenue, will take effect with timetable changes next May. They come after the annual fares increase due in January, which is expected to be about 5 per cent.

British Rail's scheme will be disclosed to rail union leaders on Wednesday as a first step in the corporation's campaign to convince the unions that it has no plans for big cuts in the rail network. Industrial action set for last week was called off after British Rail made optimistic predictions about the railway's future and promised to consult the unions on its plans.

The fare changes will have no effect on the travel costs of commuters in London and the South-east, and season tickets will not be affected either, although season ticket holders will continue to be eligible for discounts on weekend travel.

British Rail's aim, as stated in the unpublished revision of its corporate plan for this decade, is that passenger miles operated should rise from last year's 18.7 billion to 20 billion in 1986.

Tickets likely to disappear are awayday returns, week returns, weekend returns, bargain return fares, locally based saver tickets. The plethora of special deals has led to widespread criticism and British Rail has been under pressure to make its cheap fares system easier to understand.

A senior British Rail official said: "The emphasis will now be on the time you travel, not the period that the ticket is valid for. If you travel before 9.30 in the morning you will pay the top rates. Otherwise the saver fares will be available to everyone." There will be no time limit on the validity of the saver ticket. People holding family or senior citizen railcards will also benefit from fare cuts.

Competition from coach services is worrying British Rail. Although the passenger business recovered better than expected from the 1982 rail strikes, last year's figures showed little improvement on 1981 and the passenger miles travelled was below the levels obtained before the strikes.

The fare changes are part of the overall drive by Mr Bob Reid, British Rail chairman, to reduce the passenger subsidy from the Government from £933m to £635m by 1986.

Glasgow, £98 or £18

By a Staff Reporter

British Rail's efforts to improve service and lower prices in the face of stiffening competition from coach and air carriers has led to a bewildering variety of fares, especially on longer journeys.

A recent investigation showed at least 11 different fares on the London-Glasgow route, for example, from £98 first class return to £18 on a Journey Club Railcard day return.

The number of permutations in between, and within each of the 11 different fare categories, made the total of different possible fares much higher:

weekend return, £45 and another £12 for first class; family Railcard Awayday return, including up to four children, £22; disabled person's Railcard second class day return, £18; Rover fare, Freedom of Scotland ticket, Travel pass, and the like, all varying amounts; second class return, £67; and child half fare; Saver return, £29; young person's Railcard Saver return, £26; Awayday return, £36, and Senior citizen Railcard second class return, £33.50.

Similar fare structures exist on most routes as well as a wealth of special offers.

Firms plan £17½m coffee battle

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

A multimillion pound battle is about to start between the manufacturers of Britain's two most popular instant coffee brands, Nescafé and Maxwell House.

Annual coffee sales in the United Kingdom are worth more than £360m, with instant brands accounting for about 90 per cent. But in the past few years that growth has slowed and manufacturers are concentrating on higher quality instant coffee.

Earlier this month, General Foods launched a new "high blend" Maxwell House coffee in both powder and granule forms, made primarily from Colombian arabica beans. The company has invested more than £8m in new processing technology and claims that the taste is the closest yet achieved to that of real coffee.

General Foods plans to spend about £15m during the next year on newspaper, television, and poster advertising and on letter box leaflets with discounts offers and prize competitions.

Nestlé has countered with a £2.5m campaign over the next three months to publicize the new range of Gold Blend ground coffees to meet what it describes as an increasingly discriminating market.

Arson accounts for quarter of claim payments

By Richard Thomson

Between a quarter and a third of all claims paid by insurance companies on fire losses are the result of arson, and the figure is rising.

That was the conclusion of research carried out in Europe and the United States, announced at a conference for reinsurance companies held in Monte Carlo last week.

Of £400m paid by companies in Britain on fire losses, more than £100m is the result of arson, the British Insurance Association calculates.

In 1962, only 2 per cent of the 26,000 fires in commercial and public buildings were started deliberately. By 1982 the proportion was more than 22 per cent of 39,000 fires.

For fires causing more than £50,000 worth of damage, arson rose from 6 per cent in 1962 to more than 36 per cent in 1982.

Telecom to end free emergency repairs

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Local health and regional police authorities will have to pay for any priority telephone repair service for doctors, nurses, ambulancemen, and policemen, as a result of British Telecom's plan to abolish the free service.

The controversial move, which is likely to provoke hostility from those opposed to making British Telecom a private company, is legal, according to the small print of the corporation's operating licence. Under the terms of that licence a priority repair service for the "emergency-status" professionals must exist but British Telecom has the right to recover the cost.

Normal customer service is

repair within one working day of reporting a fault. The emergency priority repair is almost immediate.

During the debate on the Telecommunications Bill, which will transform British Telecom into a public limited company, opponents of privatization said that the new company would seek to maximize profits and reject any services that were a financial burden.

The priority repair service may come into that category since an inability or unwillingness of a local authority to pay British Telecom could mean the service's being withdrawn.

MP attacks treatment of Laitner girl

The way in which Miss Nichola Laitner was questioned during the wedding day murder and rape trial was to depict her as a "slag, a tart, and a slut", Mr Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Birmingham, Erdington, said yesterday.

He is to ask the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, to act immediately to prevent "a recurrence of that disgraceful scene".

Mr Corbett is the author of the Act of Parliament which bans publication of the name of a rape victim and the name of the alleged rapist, unless and until he is convicted.

In the Arthur Hutchinson trial at Durham Crown Court, Mr Justice McNeill accepted an application that Miss Laitner should be publicly identified as the alleged rape victim.

Prince may invoke 1586 law

A confusion over the legal status of a Saudi prince charged with drinking and driving may mean that he will escape prosecution.

Prince Al Mutasib Bin Saud Abdul Aziz, aged 25, a nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, pleaded diplomatic immunity when he was arrested in the West End of London on September 1.

It became clear yesterday that he cannot claim immunity on diplomatic grounds because he is not named in the Diplomatic List. However it is understood that the prince intends to claim Sovereign immunity, a concept that goes back to the trial of Mary Queen of Scots in 1586.

The Foreign Office said last night: "The concept of this kind of immunity is valid in international law but can only be decided by a court".

Plea for accused rector

Parishioners yesterday offered special prayers for their rector after he appeared in court charged with endangering a woman's life by cutting the brake pipes on her car.

A statement by the Bishop of Guildford, the Right Rev Michael Adie, was read at services in the old parish church, Farnborough, Hampshire.

It came after the appearance of The Rev Peter Renouf, aged 54, before magistrates at Chichester, West Sussex on Saturday. He was remanded on conditional bail with a surety of

£1,000 and under a night curfew from 10pm.

The Bishop told parishioners: "The congregation should remember Peter Renouf and his wife and family in their prayers".

Mr Renouf, who is married with four children, had been on holiday for the past week.

He faced two charges when he appeared in court. It was alleged that he cut the front hoses on a car belonging to Mrs Judith Beatt, endangering her life, and that he stole a car's warranty book from a garage in Chichester.

The Uganda may be saved from scrapyards

A society has been formed to save the Falklands hospital ship, the Uganda, from the breaker's yard.

The 33-year-old liner, which once ferried parties of school-children round the Mediterranean and Scandinavia, is at present leased to the Ministry of Defence, ferrying troops and equipment between Port Stanley and Ascension Island.

The lease runs out in December. Uganda's owners, the P&O Line, says it is too early to predict the fate of the 17,000 ton vessel, but has cooperated with the SS Uganda Society in schemes to ensure its survival.

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation last week published a feasibility study on the possibility of turning the ship into a permanent educational, leisure, and maritime exhibition centre in the West India Docks. The estimated cost of refurbishing is between £2m and £6m over five years.

Mr David Pollard, a marine fuels expert from Surrey, who launched the society last year, is concentrating his 400 members' efforts on raising £300,000. P&O's expected asking price for the scrap value of the vessel.

The Uganda's attraction, said Mr Pollard, is that the epitome of an era of cruising to the colonies in style, instead of being packed into a jumbo jet. The colonies have gone, so has the style, he says, but the Uganda remains and should be saved.

When she was handed over by the Barclay Curie shipyard of Glasgow in 1952, the Uganda's first route was with P&O's subsidiary, British India Steam Navigation Company, sailing to East Africa.

However, it was as the hospital ship to the Falklands that she gained wider attention. Her first patients, on May 12, 1982, were from HMS Sheffield and during the next two months she handled 780 casualties, including 150 Argentines.



On the beat: Joe Cooper, aged 11, from Greenwich, the youngest player ever to join the ILEA London Schools Symphony Orchestra, rehearsing on the drums yesterday for tonight's performance at the Royal Festival Hall (Photograph: John Voos).

'Life' attacks Warnock report

Delegates to the anti-abortion group Life's annual conference have been told that if the recommendations of the Warnock committee became law, it would be a crime not to kill certain human beings.

Professor Jack Scarisbrick, chairman of Life, asked delegates to support a campaign against the committee's recommendations on human fertilization and embryology.

Speaking at the weekend conference in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, he said: "The abortion Act was the first statute in our society which says it is possible for one human

being to kill another without committing a crime."

"But if the recommendations of the Warnock committee were to reach the statute books a further step would be taken."

The recommendation is that human embryos may be kept alive for up to 14 days. What happens then? What happens is that they must then be killed. Of course, it will not be called that. It will be "a stopping of external life-support systems or some such phrase."

"It will be a crime to keep the embryo alive after that. It will be a crime not to kill certain human beings."

Professor Scarisbrick said that claims by the Department of Health and Social Security that it wanted to remain neutral on the abortion issue were untrue.

He said that the department had rejected a request for a grant towards work by Life in counselling pregnant women who wanted to have their babies.

"The DHSS has done more than anyone to increase abortions. By this time next year two and a half million lives will have been lawfully destroyed. If this is neutrality, then God help us if they become aggressive."

Outpatients waiting 20% longer, BMA finds

By Bill Johnstone

The time taken to get an outpatient appointment in the National Health Service has increased by a fifth in the past year, according to a survey by the British Medical Association. It called the deterioration disgraceful.

Dr John Havard, secretary of the association, said: "The times which people have to wait for hospital treatment are far too long."

"We shall be sending the results of the survey to the Department of Health and Social Security asking for their comments and what proposals they have for improving the service for patients."

The association carried out its study by looking at the 301 health districts in England and Wales, comparing the waiting times in April 1983, with those last April.

According to the association's survey, 54 per cent of the districts showed an increase in the waiting times for general surgery, 57 per cent for orthopaedics, 62 per cent for ear, nose and throat, 58 per cent for gynaecology, 45 per cent for general medicine, and 72 per cent for ophthalmology.

The survey did not isolate any area or hospital nor identify the reasons for the increase in waiting time.

Mountain estate up for auction

The 22,000-acre Black Mountain estate - which covers 0.6 per cent of Wales - in the Brecon Beacons national park in Powys is to be auctioned today at the Hilton Hotel in London.

A private deal reported to have been worth £385,000 was left uncompleted earlier this year. This time the price could go far higher, after Mr Brian Randall, the owner, disclosed that the land has coal reserves worth up to £12m.

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Sad face to keep children from danger

By Nicholas Timmins

Social Services Correspondent

The face of a young child crying could help avoid poisoning and other accidents to children at home.

Unlike other warning symbols, such as a red cross or a snake, children aged between three and four can easily be taught what it means, and then member it, Mr Robert Grieve, a psychologist from the University of Western Australia, told a conference of the British Psychological Society held in Oxford.

Mr Grieve said that research had shown that there were no symbols that young children automatically associated with danger. While they could be taught that a red cross or other symbol meant danger, they forgot quickly.

However, in tests involving about seventy children, when they were taught that the face of a child in tears meant danger,



they not only learnt what the symbol meant quickly, but five weeks later were almost always able to pick out bottles marked with it as being "naughty".

Mr Grieve said: "What we want to do now is introduce this symbol into the community". Peel-off labels could be produced, he said, with instructions to parents on how to teach children the symbol's meaning. They could then be stuck on

bottles of bleach, weedkiller, detergents, and other dangerous substances as well as on cookers, heaters, and electric sockets.

The idea was greeted with considerable scepticism, however, by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Although about 10,000 children aged up to four are taken to hospital each year with suspected poisoning, few cases were serious and where serious poisoning did result it was nearly always when bleach or some other toxic substance had been decanted from its original container.

"Parents who are prepared to rush around putting labels on everything are the ones who are not going to let their children have an accident anyway. It's the ones who are not susceptible to this sort of advice whose children have the accidents", a spokesman for the society said.

Civil Service ethics code to put check on ministers sought by Think Tank man

From Peter Heanessy, Birmingham

A code of practice defining and reconciling the dual and often conflicting loyalty of civil servants to ministers, Parliament, and the public was called for on Saturday by Mr Michael Elliott, a former member of the Central Policy Review Staff, at a meeting of senior civil servants and academics.

The conference, organized at Aston University by the Royal Institute of Public Administration (RIPA), was overshadowed by the case of Mr Clive Ponting, the senior Ministry of Defence official charged under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, with the unauthorized disclosure to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, of information on the sinking of the Argentine warship General Belgrano.

Mr Elliott said public, parliamentary, and judicial scrutiny of ministers was so weak that

the Civil Service was in reality the best check on governmental action that existed in Britain. That was not a desirable position.

A code of ethics and a civil service statute were needed to create a public service which helped ministers to achieve their political goals and helped the public to render government accountable.

Support for a code also came from Mr Alexander Grey, of Hay-MSL, the management consultants, and a member of a RIPA working group on public service ethics.

Mr Grey said a majority of British politicians still had integrity. But a growing number showed little sign of it and found it easy to operate in a polarized state.

Members of the seminar at which Mr Grey presented his paper, "Integrity versus Good-

think", were invited to vote on the ethics of three recent leaks of official information.

They were: the minutes of a meeting between Mr Michael Quinlan, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Employment, and Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, passed to the magazine *Time Out* by Mr Ian Willmore, an administration trainee in the department who subsequently resigned; documents dealing with the deployment of cruise missiles disclosed to *The Guardian* by Miss Sarah Tisdall, a Foreign Office clerical officer; and the alleged leak by Mr Ponting.

On the Willmore leak, 5 thought Mr Willmore was ethically justified and 50 did not, with 10 undecided; on the Tisdall case, 10 thought Miss Tisdall was justified, 45 did not, and 10 were undecided.

Government attacks on the Civil Service were blamed by Mr Hugo Young, former political editor of *The Sunday Times* for creating a climate of leaking.

"A government so concerned to create a public service totally loyal to itself (has) conjured up a sort of demon."

Speaking at the conference dinner, Mr Young said the behaviour of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the Commons, in returning the leaked Belgrano papers to the Ministry of Defence, "really beggared belief".



A line of heart transplant patients among the people helping to raise money at Harefield Hospital yesterday (Photograph: Murray Job)

Families jog for heart swop cash

By Tony Samstag

Hundreds of joggers, many with families, dogs, and prams in tow, joined about a dozen heart transplant patients yesterday for the fourth annual fund-raising run at Harefield Hospital, west London.

The organizers, who hoped to raise £20,000 for the heart transplant programme, wisely imposed no hard and fast rules. Participants were allowed to cover as much or as little as they wanted of the three-mile course, which went through the

hospital grounds and countryside nearby, at their own pace and in their own style, for the three hours of the "race".

Among the patients taking part was Adrian Walton, aged 14, of Manchester, the youngest surviving heart transplant patient, who had his operation only three weeks ago. He jogged a few symbolic steps for photographers and covered the remainder of the course in a wheelchair.

Of 133 heart transplants

performed at Harefield, 92 patients are still alive. The number of transplants has almost doubled this year, to 40, and the average patient is out of hospital two to three weeks after their operation.

Mr Geoffrey Preece, aged 40, only the second surviving heart and lung transplant patient, was, meanwhile, spending the weekend at his Glamorgan home after leaving Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, on Saturday.

New homes needed for poorer people

By Christopher Warman

Property Correspondent

Up to three million homes need to be built by the end of this century to improve housing standards, particularly for poorer households, the National House-building Council has told the inquiry into housing chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh.

That according to a Housing Research Foundation report, would mean building between 200,000 and 220,000 units a year for the remainder of the decade and between 150,000 and 200,000 annually from then until the year 2000.

The submission to the inquiry, set up by the National Federation of Housing Associations, emphasizes the difficulty in tackling the housing shortage since the total of houses built this year is likely to be nearer 150,000 and 200,000.

The council, representatives of which include all the main groups involved with house-building, including consumers, architects, surveyors and local authorities, says that homes must be built in the right areas so that good housing can be put within the reach of the less affluent comparatively easily.

It adds: "If the supply of houses is insufficient where they are needed, scarcity will push up prices and adequate housing will become a luxury only the better-off can afford."

The inquiry, headed by the Duke of Edinburgh as patron of the federation, was set up last April and is expected to report next April. It comes 100 years after a royal commission, of which the then Prince of Wales was a member, reported on housing for the working classes.

Architects represented on the council have submitted their own evidence through the Royal Institute of British Architects in which they say that the emphasis of future housing policy should be on the achievement of quality rather than quantity: "if the problems that have arisen from past building programmes are not to be repeated".

In the past 40 years, technical innovation in house-building had been led by the public sector, they say. With the present emphasis on private house-building, that lead was likely to pass to the private sector. The institute calls for more predictive work by the Building Research Establishment to provide an early warning system for use by the private and public sectors.

Recent establishment studies of traditional housing indicated that many technical faults were still happening, partly because of bad design, partly the fault of workmanship on the site.

The institute wants to see the expansion of the Housing Defects Prevention Unit and emphasizes the need for architects to be informed fully about technical house-building matters.

Mephisto wins computer chess

In the Fourth World Micro

Computer Chess championships held in Glasgow last week, the event in which computer plays computer ended with four computers tying for top place. Princess X from Sweden, Mephisto A from Germany, Psion from the UK, and the American Elite X all finished with 5 points from a possible 7.

The championship for a microcomputer at present commercially available went to the German Mephisto A, and as there was only one entrant for the amateur championships, the title went to Chestnut III from Dunfermline in Fife.

Shah sells two papers

F. Johnston and Company, of Edinburgh, has bought two newspapers from Eddie Shah, who was at the centre of a dispute over employment legislation with the National Graphical Association.

The company, which owns local newspapers in Scotland and England, will take over the *Bury Messenger* and the *Prestwich Messenger* after reaching agreement with the NGA to print them.

RAF drive to recruit dogs

The RAF, which is facing a shortage of dogs which guard airfields and ports and sniff out drugs and explosives, is offering new dog recruits the chance to see the world.

The RAF relies on gifts of dogs from the public and does not breed its own animals. Dogs should be aged between 15 and 30 months and the breeds accepted are German shepherds, labradors, golden retrievers, border collies, springer spaniels, cocker spaniels, German short-haired pointers, and Munsterlanders.

Youth charged

A youth was charged yesterday in connection with the death of Michelle Conlan, aged 17, whose naked body was found with head injuries early on Saturday near her home in Arnelife Road, Batley, West Yorkshire.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The very success of the SDP at Buxton last week has presented an extra challenge to the Liberals at Bournemouth this week. Many Social Democrats left Buxton feeling more confident about their party than they have done for a long time.

They are not thinking of going it alone. Most of them recognize that they still need the Liberals, but some of them are coming round to the Owenite position that they had better watch what is happening to the Liberal Party before committing themselves too far.

If the Liberals behave in Bournemouth in such a way as to make Social Democrats feel that they are not really the same political animals, then the renewed self-confidence of the SDP will impose a strain upon the Alliance. The critical tests this week will come on defence and disarmament, and possibly also on economic policy.

But if serious divergences on policy can be avoided, then it will be natural for attention to focus on how the two parties can draw more closely together. The present semi-detached relationship perplexes the electorate. Are they being asked to support a lasting partnership or a marriage of convenience? Could the Alliance run the country, or is it simply a spoiling device?

Merger 'would breed conflict'

A full merger before the next general election would be neither possible nor desirable. The very attempt to amalgamate at this stage would breed conflict and provide a field-day for constitution-mongers. But that still leaves a good many possibilities for moving more and more towards each other.

Mr Paul Tyler, the chairman of the Liberal Party, is arguing in a personal capacity for there to be agreement over the coming year that the Alliance should elect a joint leader before the next election on the basis of one-person-one-vote for all members of both parties.

Such an arrangement would do more than anything else to convince the electorate that the Alliance had become a united political force. But I say a pinch: doubt if it will be acceptable to the SDP.

There are considerably more Liberal than SDP members throughout Britain which would give a natural bias towards the liberal leader in such a contest. Mr Tyler points out that if the choice were made soon there would be a strong chance of cross-voting, with members not automatically supporting their own party leader, which would give the advantage to Dr Owen.

I think that is correct. With his present reputation Dr Owen would start favourite. But would SDP leadership can be substantially increased in the new recruitment drive, it would be a gamble for him to take - and he had said on a number of occasions that he would not stand against Mr Steel.

Even without a joint leader, however, the Alliance can still be strengthened. The most interesting recent development has been the agreement to produce an interim programme on policy by 1986, after which there will be separate policy statements only in exceptional circumstances.

Approval needed from conference

By starting this process so far in advance of the election, Dr Owen is deliberately locking Liberal policy-making into the Alliance. It is interesting that he should have appreciated in this instance that the best way to control the more wayward tendencies of the Liberal hothouse is to bind his partners to him not to distance himself from them.

The programme will need to be approved by the respective party conferences. But what will happen if one or both insists on amending it? Perhaps it would then be agreed to give the SDP policy committee and the Liberal standing committee plenipotentiary powers to draw up a compromise.

But in the long run a need for joint policy implies a need for common institutions. By embarking on this deliberate process for establishing policy as distinct from cobbling together a hasty statement of shared objectives at the last minute - the Social Democrats and the Liberals may be moving further down the road towards convergence than some of them appreciate.

How far and how fast they move will be much influenced by what happens this week in Bournemouth. The whole process could be set in reverse if the Liberals appear to be controlled by their cranks.

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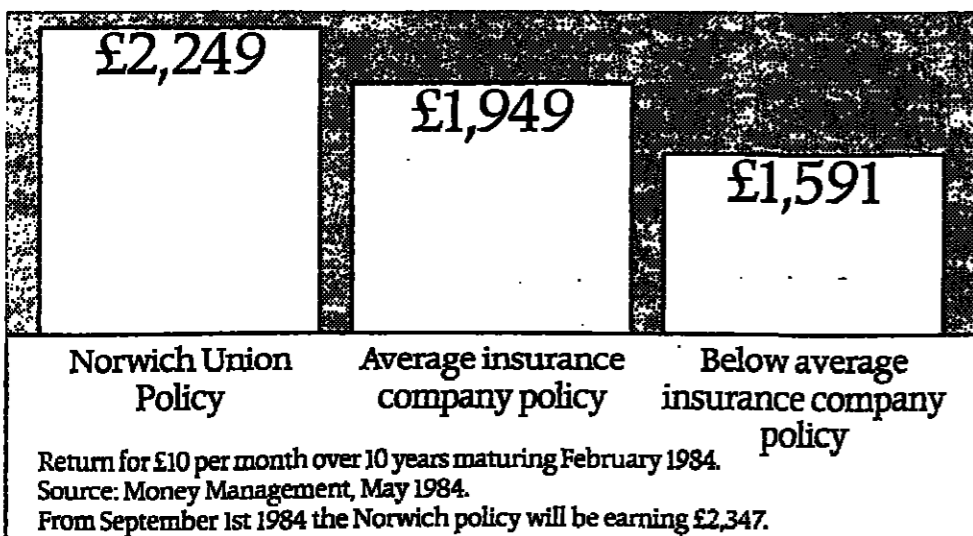
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Rama Rao back in power in Andhra Pradesh as Gandhi bows to reality

From Michael Hamlyn
Bombay

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, finally bowed to the political realities in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh yesterday and allowed her governor there to dismiss the unfortunate Chief Minister, Mr Nandula Bhaskara Rao, and to install in his place the man he supplanted, Mr N. T. Rama Rao.

In a statement from his mansion in Hyderabad, the state capital, the Governor, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, said that he had accepted Mr Bhaskara Rao's resignation and had asked Mr Rama Rao to form a ministry since he commanded the majority of the Legislative Assembly.

Dr Dayal has given Mr Rama Rao one month to prove his majority in the Legislative Assembly. He should do so, as more than 160 members of the Assembly have been following him around for a month already.

Mr Rama Rao, who was sworn in yesterday afternoon, also appointed eight ministers who were also sworn in. They had been members of his Cabinet before.

In a statement, Mr Rama Rao said: "The will of the people has prevailed at last. A great task lies before us, and I invite all



Mrs Gandhi, reluctant, and Mr Rama Rao, restored.

who waged the struggle to join us in the endeavour. He urged his followers to avoid reprisals against those who had defected from his ranks earlier.

Mr Bhaskara Rao, however, protested to the end. Mr Rama Rao should not have been asked to form the ministry, he told reporters, since he had lost the confidence of the Assembly before being dismissed a month ago. The leader of the next largest party should have been made Chief Minister. That plainly meant that he thought Congress (I), Mrs. Gandhi's party, should have been asked, presumably with his support. The decision brings to an end the running battle in Andhra which had done much harm to India's reputation as a democratic country run according to well-defined rules. When Mr Rama Rao was dismissed by the

previous Governor, he was still in command of a majority of the Assembly, despite claims by Mr Bhaskara Rao to have a list of members willing to support him.

There was a huge outcry from the opposition parties at what was seen as high-handedness on the part of Mrs Gandhi's central Government, and Mr Rama Rao, unlike many previous chief ministers so supplanted, began a well-organised and planned campaign for his return to power.

Mrs Gandhi can now claim that she is a true democrat as seen that democracy should prevail. She dismissed the previous Governor, Mr Ram Lal, and the Congress leader in the legislature, and urged Mr Bhaskara Rao to prove his majority, if any, in the assembly.

His delaying tactics, and the way in which supporters of Mr Rama Rao stayed together, showed that he would not be able to do so.

Mrs Gandhi did not, however, yield with very good grace. She was quoted yesterday as telling a meeting of women supporters in Bangalore in the neighbouring state of Karnataka that what had happened in Andhra was nothing new; similar events had happened in other states many times without a tear being shed by the press or the intellectuals or "self-proclaimed upholders of democracy".



Orthodox gift: Dr Graham receiving an icon during yesterday's Russian Orthodox service in Moscow.

Graham reveals news of Gromyko talks

From Richard Owen
Moscow

Dr Billy Graham yesterday revealed to a small section of the Soviet public that Mr Andrei Gromyko, is to meet President Reagan shortly.

Preaching to a Russian Orthodox congregation in Moscow, Dr Graham asked Soviet Christians to "pray the

meeting will be a good conference and another beginning toward peace".

The Reagan-Gromyko meeting has not been announced so far here, possibly because the strength of anti-Reagan rhetoric has left the Russian public unprepared for a volte-face.

Dr Graham is on a 12-day mission to the Soviet Union to spread peace and the Gospel.

He spoke yesterday at the Church of the Resurrection, as KGB agents stood near by in large numbers, apparently to discourage the curious.

The church was only two thirds full, although other Moscow Churches where it was wrongly rumoured Dr Graham might preach were packed.

Dr Graham, noted for his fervent evangelical style,

whether he is in Wembley Stadium or a Russian Orthodox church, has been criticized for failing to emphasize the persecution of believers in Russia, including members of the Baptist Church.

He has visited Leningrad, the Estonian capital Tallin, and Moscow, studiously avoiding politics, ideology and controversy.

Peking's assertion that agreement has been reached on the issues of land ownership, civil aviation and passports has not been contested here. Britain is now concentrating on how best to sell the final compromise to the colony's 5.3 million people, whose confidence in their own future is crucial to all.

A special assessment office has been established to collate their views, with two independent monitors to ensure the process is carried out fairly.

Hongkong deal may be only days away

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hongkong, will start consultations at the Foreign Office today amid speculation that Britain and China are days away from a settlement on the colony's future.

The Foreign Office still refuses to say more than that the two-year old negotiations are on course for an agreement being initiated by the end of September.

But the Cabinet could be asked to approve the document at its meeting on Thursday, after what the Chinese claim to be agreement on the three most important outstanding issues.

Unofficial members of Hongkong's Executive Council, the colony's "cabinet", arrive here tomorrow, and with Sir Edward will meet Mrs Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday. That will be followed by Dinner with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

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Mehta and his music find a home in India

From Our Own Correspondent, Bombay

Zubia Mehta, the conductor, pointed urgently. "See this bungalow, beyond here was open sea".

A forest of skyscrapers now stands between the yellow bungalow and water's edge. "This is my part of town, my home," he said.

Mr Mehta, in Bombay at the end of an eight country Asian tour with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, told a press conference. "I am at home... in a lot of places in the world. But in no place do I have the same feelings of warmth inside me as when I come back here."

Mr Mehta was born into a Parsi family in Bombay 48 years ago. He left when he was 17 to study, and did not return for another 13 years.

Now, driving through the city in a borrowed Mercedes, he remembers. "This is the corner where I sat and watched Mounthatten say goodbye to Nehru."

"That hall is where my father played his concerts. The older Mehta was the founder and conductor of the Bombay Symphony Orchestra."

"The middle twenties... A lot of the great soloists going by ship to either Australia or to Shanghai or Japan in those days also used to pass through

Bombay. And my father had the good fortune to listen to Yasha Heifetz, watch Pavlova or Italian opera companies doing *La Boheme* etcetera."

Now his father, teaches in the United States, refusing ever to return to his country.

"My father is mad at India," said Mr Mehta, who began his conducting career in Liverpool, and whose father's first job in exile was as assistant leader of the Halle Orchestra. "He feels he should have been supported better."

His son once also swore he would never return to India when in 1977, the Indian government rejected his suggestion to come on a tour with the Israeli Philharmonic.

He got over what he called "my temporary outburst" and India seems to have got over its hostility to Western music.

The entire Indian concert tour was sold out. One concert in Delhi was watched by 20 million people on television.

"I hope this doesn't stop," Mr Mehta said. I hope other music, even as far as recitals of chamber music, is brought on television.

"This was probably a journey of discovery for many people in our country and I am very happy about that."

Lange's aim for growth wins favour

From W. P. Reeves
Wellington

A three-day, widely representative conference on the economy has proved something of a personal triumph for Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister.

He received a standing ovation at the end of it on Friday, along with pledges of cooperation and virtual endorsement of government intentions even though the detail of Labour's financial and economic policies will not be revealed until a postponed budget in November.

The conference, based on an idea successfully exploited by Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, after the election of his Labour Government last year, was skillfully staged occasion. Mr Lange promoted a theme of consensus with 95 delegates delivering set pieces. Under the glare of public television, leading industrialists and bankers came together with trade unionists, social workers and representatives of the unemployed to accept a course to growth and social equity through a more open, competitive economy.

The conference accepted the need for immediate help to those at the bottom end of the economy and there was broad agreement about preserving New Zealand's reputation as a caring society.

Shift from centre in Morocco

From Geoffrey Morrison
Rabat

Despite major gains by the left in the general election, centre-right political parties will dominate Morocco's Parliament when it meets next month.

With almost two-thirds of the results declared, Interior Ministry figures showed an increased ideological polarization in the country's domestic politics. The Socialist Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires (USFP) more than doubled its share of seats, but at the same time the Union Constitutionnelle (UC), which has campaigned in favour of the private sector and against state intervention in the economy, emerged as the single largest party.

It was the first general election here since 1977 and several political parties have complained already of poll irregularities, although most political sources said it was a more honestly conducted poll than local government elections held last year.

A big loser in the poll was Morocco's oldest party, the centrist Istiqlal (Independence), whose roots go back to the 1930s and which played an important role in Morocco's struggle to free itself from French rule.

No women were among the successful candidates.

Technology warning

From John Best, Ottawa

The Pope, continued his tour of Canada, travelled to the Canadian West yesterday after two action-filled days in Ontario. The Ontario leg of his visit was capped by an open-air mass in Toronto on Saturday, which drew an estimated 400,000 people.

Toronto being the centre of southern Ontario's busy industrial belt, the Pope addressed his audience on the theme of making technology serve the true interests of mankind.

"At times," he said, "technology cannot decide the full measure of its own allegiance, whether it is for humanity, or against it. The same technology that has the possibility to help the poor sometimes even contributes to poverty. Limits the opportunity for work and removes the possibility of human creativity."

On Friday night, the Polish-born Pope in impromptu remarks to a gathering of Polish emigrants in Toronto, paid tribute to the banned free trade union Solidarity in Poland and expressed the hope that "we will be able to achieve this desire of being ourselves and being able to live our lives as Poles".



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EEC edges towards a deal to resolve squabble on spending

From Ian Murray, Ennis, Co Clare

The EEC inched closer yesterday to resolving its bitter internal squabble over money. A few technical concessions remain to be made, but a complete package could be ready by the beginning of next month.

A relaxed weekend meeting of finance ministers from the Community in the seclusion of Dromoland Castle near here made important progress on the main outstanding argument - Britain's demand for effective ways of controlling all spending, particularly on agriculture.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the British Chancellor, said after the meeting: "I do genuinely believe we are entering the last lap." Mr Allan Dukes, the Irish Republic's Finance Minister, who hosted the meeting, said: "It is a matter of time rather than a matter of attitude."

Mr Lawson insisted, however, that there could be a final settlement only as part of a package, including payment of Britain's EEC refund, as well as arrangements for ensuring that future UK contributions are reduced.

Two main points still remain to be settled in detail, although the Chancellor said there was "a

political agreement in principle" on the urgent need to control spending.

The first issue is how to ensure "satisfactory, effective, disciplinary guarantees" on which Britain insists. It would like those to be legally binding, but Mr Lawson said there were other ideas which could create effective controls. The second problem is to ensure that any overspending on agriculture in one year is one year is repaid in subsequent years.

After the meeting, it was agreed that Mr Dukes should fly to Brussels today with a copy of the weekend's draft agreement. He would be able to give a positive report on progress to foreign ministers discussing the budget issue during their regular meetings in Brussels.

Technicians will then be put to work on resolving the two remaining problems. They must have a text ready for agreement at an extra meeting of finance ministers which has been called for Luxembourg on October 1. It will take place at the same time as another foreign council session. The object Mr Dukes then is to reach final agreement then.

Mr Lawson hoped progress

over the weekend had been good enough for the foreign ministers to give conditional approval by tomorrow in Brussels to all other outstanding issues on the budget question.

Those include finding an extra £600m to pay for Community overspending this year, approving a budget for next year and finding a technical way of cutting British contributions by £600m next year.

If this was possible, the European Parliament's budget committee, which meets in Brussels on Wednesday, should be persuaded to recommend release of Britain's frozen £457m rebate.

The new rules for controlling spending are based on those outlined during the two European summits earlier this year.

The final wording of the agreement is certain to come under close scrutiny by the House of Commons. The Government has accepted the need to increase the amount of money the Community can receive, but must first obtain Parliament's permission. Only if the rules for controlling spending satisfy MPs as being really effective, is that permission likely to be granted.

Democrats despair at Reagan lead

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

As the presidential election campaign enters its third week, there is a growing sense of despair among Democratic leaders as well as the party's rank-and-file at Mr Walter Mondale's failure to narrow the gap between himself and President Reagan.

Despite hard-hitting speeches in the past week, the latest polls show that Mr Reagan is well ahead of his Democratic challenger in 41 of the 50 states and that Mr Mondale can count on winning only in the District of Columbia, where the population is predominantly black.

Mr Mondale's campaign staff are coming under increasing public attack from Democratic leaders who fear that Mr Reagan could win an even greater landslide than he did in 1980 unless his juggernaut can be halted during the remaining 49 days of the campaign.

Mr Mondale tacitly acknowledged his dissatisfaction with the performance of his campaign by reshuffling some of his top aides last week. But the central thrust of his campaign - his determination to concentrate on issues such as the budget deficit and the arms race on which he believes the

president is vulnerable remains unchanged.

Mr Mondale has also tried to recoup some of the ground he lost last week on the nuclear arms issue by announcing yesterday that he will hold talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, on September 27.

It was announced last week that President Reagan will meet Mr Gromyko at the White House on September 28. It will be the President's highest level meeting with a Soviet official since he took office.

Before the White House meeting was announced Mr Mondale had strongly attacked President Reagan for his failure to hold talks with the Soviet leadership on reducing nuclear weapons.

The Mondale team are now planning their hopes on two nationally televised debates next month to reduce Mr Reagan's lead. The Reagan and Mondale camps have made a tentative agreement to hold the debates on October 7 and on October 21.

Mr George Bush and Ms Geraldine Ferraro, the two vice-presidential candidates, are to hold one debate. Mondale aides believe their candidate's greater mastery of issues will enable him to run rings around President Reagan. Leading article, page 13

Israel cuts budget by £780m

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israel's Government of national unity decided at its first meeting in Jerusalem yesterday to slash \$1bn (£780m) from the present annual budget of about \$2.6bn.

Mr Yitzhak Moda'i, the Finance Minister, said the decision was the Government's opening move in economic programme which will cut back Israeli living standards to the 1982 level.

The move, which will mean cuts in government services and subsidies on essential commodities, was calculated to meet American pressure for stringent economic measures as a condition for emergency economic aid.

The Cabinet appointed a committee of four to negotiate with each minister about the cuts they must make. The committee is led by Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, and includes Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Deputy Prime Minister. Although the fiscal year is nearly half over, officials said about 75 per cent of the budget had not been spent.

A government team, led by the Prime Minister, later began negotiations with leaders of the General Federation of Labour for an economic package, including a freeze on prices and wages.



Guatemalan-made armoured personnel carriers on show at the Independence Day parade in Guatemala City.

Pro-Syrian guerrilla groups reestablish bases in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The writing is scrawled on the grey breeze-block wall in chalk, the letters uneven as though a child was responsible. "PFLP-GC", it says. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, in English and Arabic.

And sure enough, up the dirty tile staircase, sit six Palestinians. One is wearing camouflage uniform, an old US Marine issue given to the Lebanese Army. Another carries a small black pistol in the back of his trouser belt. A third man introduces himself as "Mahmud".

He seems uneasy when we enter the room, anxious to present the PFLP-GC, the most extreme of the groups within the Palestine Liberation Organization, as a political rather than a military organization. His office has been there a year, he says, which is untrue.

"We believe that the Liberation of Palestine is impossible without the gun," he says. "But Beirut is not Palestine. But we have no military purpose here. We have no enemies here."

The words are carefully chosen. Mahmud knows that the mere suggestion that west Beirut is to become once again an armed Palestinian fiefdom could provoke the first Israeli

air raids on the city in more than two years.

He repeats again and again that this will not happen, that under Mr Yasser Arafat's leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization committed many mistakes. These included - though Mahmud is not so specific - turning west Beirut into a state within a state.

The Shia Muslim Amal militia are doing their best to make sure that does not happen. Their leader, Mr Nabih Berri, who is Justice Minister in the Lebanese Government, ordered the anti-Arafat Palestinians to stay out of Beirut in an angry confrontation earlier this year.

Israeli claims that there are more than two thousand Palestinian guerrillas back in the city appear to be unfounded. More recent reports that 1,500 Palestinian gunmen are hiding out in the "rubble" of the camps, in which there is little rubble left amid the rebuilding, are equally fanciful.

But the PLO, in the shape of the anti-Arafat factions supported and armed by Syria, have reestablished a presence in the three big Palestinian camps in Beirut, Bourj al-Barajneh, Chatila and Sabra. Damascus therefore seems intent on

keeping the tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians in the city firmly away from Mr Arafat's political influence.

According to the PFLP-GC, the Saiga Palestinian guerrilla movement, which has Syrian officers, and even Abu Nidal's murderous anti-Arafat extremist group now have offices in the camps.

Down at Khaldi, however, the local Amal commander, who identified himself only as "Nur", was last week sitting at a broken table by the roadside with a pile of brown Palestinian identity cards lying in front of him.

"The guerrillas try to come back here," he said. "They come from the Bekaa by taxi, one or two to a vehicle, and they travel through the Chouf, through Aramoun to us here. But we find them and take their guns and send them back."

● DAMASCUS: President Assad has ordered Syrian security forces to help to find and free the Reuter correspondent, Jonathan Wright, who disappeared in Lebanon 17 days ago.

Letter from the camps, back page

Emissaries seek London help for Durban six

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Representatives of the six political dissidents who have sought refuge in the British Consulate at Durban, are expected to plead their case before an official at the Foreign Office in London today.

But they are upset already over the Government's refusal to arrange a ministerial appointment for them after their overnight flight from South Africa to seek British backing for their fight with the Pretoria administration.

Mr Zac Yacoob, a barrister, Professor Jerry Coovadia of the Natal Indian Congress, and Mr Murphy Morobe of the United Democratic Front, at first asked for a meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher in order to put increased pressure on Mr P. W. Botha, South Africa's newly-installed President.

Failing the Prime Minister, they had hoped at least to see Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Office minister with responsibility for that part of the world. But, in fact, they have been offered a place in the diary of Mr John Johnson, a Assistant Under-Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office's Africa section and the most senior official available with expert knowledge of the country and its problems.

They want Britain to persuade Mr Botha to negotiate with them over the six men, who are fleeing from a detention order imposed on them by the security forces and to guarantee that they would not be arrested if they left the consulate.

Meanwhile, they would also like Whitehall to order the consulate staff to provide more of the comforts of life for the six whose welcome so far has been less than warm.

While they were deciding at their London hotel last night whether or not to accept the invitation to see Mr Johnson, British officials were pointing out that the Government's policy in the matter remains unchanged.

● DURBAN: The six fugitives spent their fourth night in the sanctuary of the British Consulate here yesterday with no indication of when their uninvited sojourn might end (Michael Hornsby writes).

Their lawyers yesterday completed preparation of an urgent application to the Durban Supreme Court, and handed a 150-page dossier, including affidavits signed by the six and other undisclosed persons, to the deputy state attorney.

Black union in trial of strength

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

South Africa's gold mines, source of 45 per cent of export earnings, face a legal strike from today for the first time in history in what is seen as an important trial of strength for the nascent independent black trade union movement.

Talks yesterday between the National Union of Mineworkers and the Chamber of Mines, representing the employers, broke down. The union wants an average pay increase of 25 per cent, against the chamber's offer of 14 per cent.

Founded only two years ago, the union is recognized on eight mines, all but one owned by the giant Anglo-American Corporation. The mines employ about 90,000 blacks.

It remains to be seen how fully the strike will be observed and whether it will spill over into mines where the union is not recognized.

There are about 30,000 blacks working for more than thirty gold mining companies belonging to the chamber. Employers are likely to be less worried by loss of production than the prospect of violence between striking and non-striking miners.

Two ships damaged in Gulf air attacks

Bahrain (AP) - Unidentified aircraft attacked two tankers in the Gulf off Qatar. They were the Greek-owned, Liberian-registered Med Heron and the Sri Lankan-owned Royal Colombo.

The 122,000-ton Med Heron was under charter to the Texaco oil company, on its way to lift a shipment of crude oil from the Saudi Arabian Terminal of Ras Tanura, and the Royal Colombo had recently left the port with a full load of oil.

Arabs held in Gaza shooting

Tel Aviv - Four Arabs were interrogated by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Gaza Strip in connexion with the murder of Abdul-Hamid Kishla, aged 54, the mayor of Rafah, as he left the local mosque on Friday. (Moshe Brilliant writes)

Damascus Radio, monitored here, said the PLO assumed responsibility for the murder of the mayor, who had been a collaborator.

Hijack foiled

Baghdad (AP) - Iraqi security agents shot dead three Iranians who tried to hijack an Iraqi Boeing 737 airliner with 110 passengers on board on a flight from Cyprus to Iraq, according to official sources.

Crew safe

Juneau, Alaska (Reuter) - The Soviet authorities are holding five Americans whose boat has been missing off Alaska for four days, the United States Coast Guard and State Department said.

Mormon Miss

A tearful Shariene Wells after her coronation as Miss America in Atlantic City, New Jersey on Saturday. Miss Wells, who is 20 and comes from Utah, plays the harp and described herself as a traditional Mormon. She was crowned by the second 1984 Miss America, Suzanne Charles of New Jersey, who assumed the title in July when Vanessa Williams resigned after nude photographs of her with an other woman were published in Penthouse magazine.

His impression was that Marshal Ogarkov, as suggested by Western analysts, had offended senior party leaders by playing an overly political role, and questioning existing Soviet military and nuclear doctrine. In a key article in Red Star in May, Marshal Ogarkov criticized reliance on tanks and heavy missiles as outdated, and called for a new strategy based on the development of high-precision conventional weapons technology.

Soviet military sources had also indicated that Marshal Ogarkov was held to blame for the Korean Airlines disaster a year ago. His performance in defending the Soviet action at a subsequent press conference impressed Western observers with its icy skill, but some members of the leadership were apparently angered - either because Marshal Ogarkov failed to show even a glimmer of remorse, or because his explanation was a shade too clever, with a touch of arrogance.

Rail tragedy

Istanbul (AP) - Nine people were killed and 35 others were injured when a train hit a bus at a level crossing in the central province of Eskisehir.

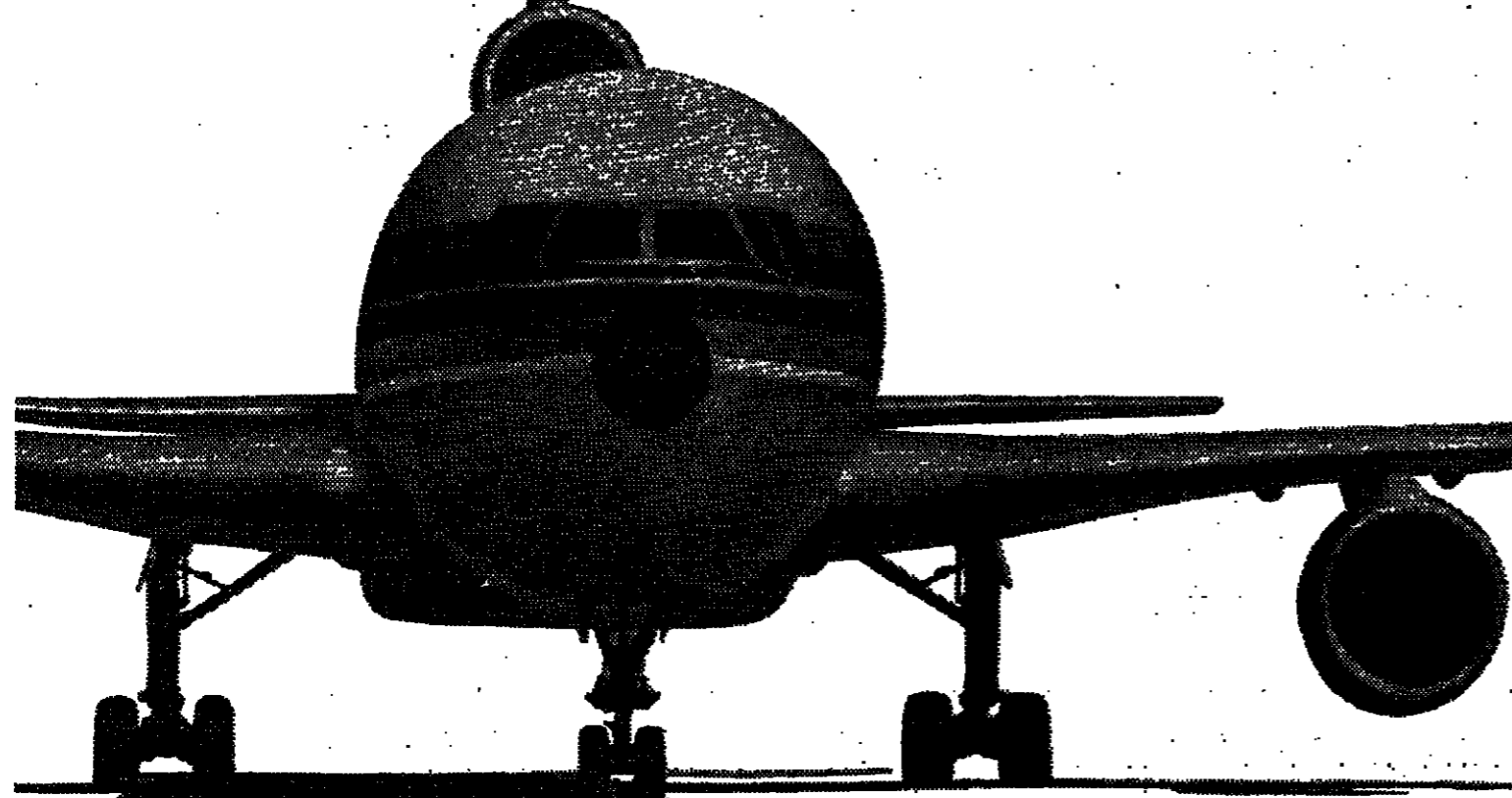
Royal tribute to Arnhem

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam

A service next Sunday to commemorate the assault on Arnhem 40 years ago today will be attended by the Prince of Wales in his capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment and by Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and her husband Prince Claus. The service will be held at the

Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek where 1,747 allied soldiers, most of them British and Polish, are buried. It will mark the culmination of ceremonies throughout this week in and around Arnhem and it is expected that Cardinal Glomp, the Polish Primate and Dame Vera Lynn will also attend.

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SETTING NEW STANDARDS

THE ARTS

Today Robert Craft publishes a second volume of Igor Stravinsky's letters

Words put in the master's mouth

Stravinsky in 1956: from *Igor and Vera Stravinsky, a photograph album*, published by Thames and Hudson

Death has done nothing to diminish Stravinsky's musical reputation, nor, more curiously, has it been allowed to interrupt the dialogue that his devotees Robert Craft has held him in. Since the composer's death in 1971 Craft has published a diary of his years with Stravinsky, three copious scrapbooks of documentary evidence, and now today the second of a further three volumes of letters (*Stravinsky: Selected Correspondence*, Faber, £35). The shelves begin to groan at the scale of this pious memorial, which inevitably has added fuel to the old controversy about Craft's manipulation of Stravinsky's verbal pronouncements.

That controversy dates back to the last twelve years of Stravinsky's life, when he and Craft published a series of conversation books whose validity was widely questioned, not least by those who were the subject of waspish remarks attributed to the composer. Some argued that the "IS" of the books had a command of English far beyond that of the real Stravinsky, other, rather less plausibly, pointed to the pettiness of this "IS" as evidence of his fictitiousness.

Even published pages of the typescript annotated in Stravinsky's hand have failed to quell the murmurings of foul play, and probably the truth will never be known. It is not, after all, uncommon for the same person to present himself quite differently in relationships with different people.

Proof of that, if it were needed, comes in the published correspondence. In the second volume one finds Stravinsky being, aloofly patronizing to Pierre Monteux, meticulously businesslike in his dealings with a whole range of people from lawyers and publishers to fellow musicians and family hangers-on, ready to use quite gracefully any admirer he discovered (the English critic Edwin Evans, for instance), and showing familiarity only to a few, and then rarely: the chief example here comes in the correspondence with Diaghilev, which begins merely as the outline of a business arrangement but then in the 1920s cracks open to allow men to talk of their immortal souls.

All these various dialogues are stage-managed by Craft, but by contrast with the conversation books, which gave the impression that his role was simply to feed questions, the volumes of correspondence make his participation quite plain. It is not just a matter of adding footnotes, through Craft's thoroughness in this area is breathtaking.

He also includes correspondence that was not with Stravinsky at all but with himself (that with Ernst

Krenek), sits the correspondence with Pierre Boulez in order to demolish a published claim that Boulez was close to Stravinsky, and add a miscellany of appendices that have nothing to do with the main business of the book but quietly keep us up to date with the editor's activities elsewhere: his reviews of a book and an exhibition and his occasional articles.

One can scarcely deplore this, though, since the appendices include some of the most fascinating material in the book. There is a study of the *Piano-Rag Music* that reveals some sketches for the piece with percussion accompaniment and almost casually suggests that Stravinsky may have intended the work to have a mobile form, pieced together by the player from the fragments provided.

There is also a very valuable examination of how much Stravinsky contributed to his Harvard lectures published as *Poétique Musicale* and how much he handed over to Roland-Manuel: this was first made available to audiences at the London Sinfonietta's 1979 Stravinsky Festival, and is now happily put on more public and permanent view.

As for the correspondence, Craft has followed the wise plan of his first volume and arranged the letters by correspondent or else with reference to some theme: the proposed

production of *The Nightingale* at the Moscow Free Theatre, for instance, or the exceedingly tangled and litigious publishing history of *The Firebird*. It is unfortunate that, for reasons not always explained, some of the exchanges are defective on one side or the other. One hears much more of Lord Berners and Alfredo Casella than of Stravinsky, while Boulez and Nicholas Nabokov have no opportunity to answer back.

In such cases one may be as tantalized as by listening to one side of a telephone conversation, and certainly the dialogue is livelier when one can catch something of both parties, as one can in the correspondence with Diaghilev, with Monteux or with Falla, even if the last is little more than a protracted swapping of courtesies.

Usually there is more to it than that. Besides confirming almost on every page Stravinsky's quick eye for the account book, the new volume of correspondence fills in more of the background to the works, particularly to those of the composer's eruptive first decade of creative maturity. Another slab has been added to Craft's Stravinsky monument; another network of paths has been laid to lead us back to the vaster monument that is Stravinsky's music.

Paul Griffiths



Recording Symphony of Psalms, 1958

Television

...now *Princess Daisy* (TV): huge budgets, high tings, happy schedulers. For those who watched last night's zzzing, sensational story of passion, torment, shame, scandal and forbidden love, this review will be superfluous. For those who missed it, do not read the *Sun*, or have not read Judith Craze's bestseller, I will try to give the flavour, leaning heavily on the words of those paid to promote it.

One Warm Kiss Led to a lifetime of Shame (Shattered by a Savage Lust): yes, but there were other kisses before that itful one (which was simply tinted at by the desperately huddling grass). "Do you believe in love at first sight?" asked Prince Stash (alias the fruity Stacy Keach). There was only a gagged gurgle from his bride-to-be Francesca (alias Lindsay Wagner, alias The

Bionic Woman) as they kissed with an urgency he had not known in years. Slipping out of her fabulous evening dress she lay naked on a pile of horse blankets and her prince, the man she had met only hours before, made savage love to her. Afterwards, holding each other tenderly...

Marriage, trauma, separation, consolation: Annabel de Fourment (alias Claudia Cardinale) will take his mind off the perpetual sorrow he feels. We first see her looking down on the prince as he sleeps. With a deft movement she lifts the cream silk sheet and lets it fall again after a wicked glance at his naked, hirsute body. Stash, after a long pause (award-winning director Waris Hussein is a virtuoso with the long pause): "I have been lying here contemplating how we might begin this conversation. Am I to gather I wasn't exactly satisfactory last

night?" Miss Cardinale laughs, and rolls her cultured eyes to the ceiling.

Later, in a Mayfair restaurant, the conversation gets going. "What are you thinking?" "Probably the same as you are thinking." "Ees thees really happening?" "Here, 'ave some of zees lovely toast." Then miraculously, they are home, and he is making savage love to her on ze floor.

Francesca drives over a cliff, Daisy grows up, and her strange, malevolent half-brother Ram finds he cannot cope with his feelings for her young, lean body (the *Sun* is unflinchingly poetic). It all begins when she innocently kisses him full on the suilen mouth. As the suddenly discordant music suggests, this gesture robs him of his sanity. Grooming, he takes her in his arms. Innocently and awkwardly, she returns his kisses.

Suddenly her joy turns to fear as Ram starts ripping her clothes off. "No!" she cries... but it is too late. Tonight, Ringo Starr stars as an opportunistic fashion designer, and Daisy Learns to Love Again.

From trips to tendentiousness. *Hooligans or Rebels?* (C4) opened and closed with ringing quotes from David Hargreaves, now chief inspector for the Inner London Education Authority, to the effect that the present secondary system leaves many children emotionally scarred for life. The programme focused on a small group of truants who are encouraged to describe, in the standard jargon of the politically oppressed, the roots of their resistance.

They were treated like royalty. They sauntered into school and blew smoke in the inmates' faces: anyone who accepted the teachers' classist oppression

rather than nobly confronting it was a mug. They were introduced to some elderly Londoners who had also "confronted authority". The fact that two of these witnesses now thought they had richly deserved their punishment did not sink in. Actually, Mr Hargreaves is right, but the scars these days derive not from over-regimentation but from the lack of it.

The eccentrically "re-designed" *Radio Times*, in which the ads look like oases of sanity, devoted a lot of space this week to puffing David Wood's inaugural programme for *River Journeys* (BBC2). His idiosyncratic trip up the Congo was indeed a pleasure to watch, despite the fakery of his "solitude" (with a camera crew of six).

Michael Church



Stuart Mackenzie as Candide

Theatre

Candide

Chelsea Centre

Though very modest, this version by the Ex Machina company of new-fledged professional actors (the first I have seen in a long line of fringe adaptations) does show how much farcical life there is in the lad's adventures when condensed for the theatre.

As we saw in the superb student *Odyssey* at Edinburgh, an epic succession of one grotesque ordeal after another acquires a comic dimension if the ordeals come quickly enough: and a bare half-hour of Kevin Buxton's script suffices for the noble bastard to be expelled from his Westphalian hâteau, press-ganged into the

Bulgarian army, reunited with his pox-ridden tutor in Rotterdam, shipwrecked, caught in the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, and condemned to death in an *auto-de-fé*.

This King's Road community centre, just behind the World's End pub, has a village-hall atmosphere that makes the black drapes and simple lighting of Joanna Procter's production seem more amateurish, but there is no problem about accepting it for locations from Paraguay to Venice. However, the script (which, for a start, seems based on the Penguin translation) goes much too far in reducing the dialogue to basics.

Lines like "Is there always so much red tape with Jesuits?" dispose of any budding sense of style, though there can be

delightful gains: Lyn Langridge's stoutly north-country Xenia greets Candide's faint on seeing his mistress with "We've no time for this sort of thing, y'know", and omits her detailed life-story with just a curt observation that her missing buttock was "cannibalized during a siege", reducing her listeners to awe-struck silence.

The conclusion, too, lacks pliancy: the characters' fate on a Turkish fruit farm, with Cunégonde physically gone to seed and cooking atrociously and the other stalwarts grumpily festooning the stage with washing, should have managed to speak for itself. Only Stuart Mackenzie's Candide still has his open smile and ingenious blue eyes undimmed by disaster: the wry despair of Cacambo (Zeh Prado), whose confidence har-

dens into fatalism as the evening wears on, suggests that knowing the world too well brings its own punishment.

The same goes for Martin, played by James Twaddale as a scardonic Scottish hack who, at the news of Cunégonde's slavery in Constantinople, resignedly mutters, "We'll be going to Trukey, then?" as if accompanying an alcoholic to one more bar. Penelope Diamond herself hits the right note of invincible naivety with Cunégonde's explanation of how being ravished has done wonders for her virtue, and amusingly reappears as her worthless actress double, wowing Paris in a ghastly Louis Quinze equivalent of *La Dame aux Camélias*.

Anthony Masters

Concerts

BBCSO/Loughran

Albert Hall

The Royal baby obligingly arrived in time to crown James Loughran's speech (But Loughran could scarcely know that it would be named after the founder of Proms); the flags and banners were out in profusion: And so the Last Night happened, and the nineteenth season of Proms ended.

Charles Mackerras's ballet from music by Sullivan, *Pineapple Poll* has occasionally been n the L's night programme and is absolutely ideal; Loughran whipped through it with such verve and exuberance as to prove himself an ideal Sullivan conductor, and the orchestra slipped in all ingenious counterpoints and combinations with ease and skill. Henry Wood's uncensored Fantasia on British Sea Songs may be interminable, but at least it gave a chance for the BBC Symphony Orchestra's soloists to receive their end-of-season due.

The leader, Rodney Friend, sounded less at home in the soaring solo of Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Alysia*, but that was the only flaw in a performance beautifully sung by 16 young soloists with Patricia

Rozario rising exquisitely to the top soprano line. Walton's *Viola Concerto*, a brittle and serious piece delivered through gritted teeth with the Canadian soloist Rivka Golani which did not quite get off the ground. And Tippett's *Shantams* with its references to Byrd, Gibbons, Purcell and the rest, though convincingly done by the BBC Symphony Chorus (appearing for the last time with Brian Wright as conductor) is not among the most convincing inspirations of the man whose *Mask of Time* made this Prom season not only distinguished, but historic.

Nicholas Kenyon

The Moodists

The Fridge, Brixton.

Australian rock, like Australian tennis, is enjoying a renaissance. Bands as diverse as the Go-Betweens, Hunters and Collectors and the Triffids are proof that our Antipodean cousins are not poor relations, while Melbourne's The Moodists, one of several groups to decamp to Britain, have fast themselves acclimatized to the finer points of rock'n'roll. Like the Birthday Party, they are aquired taste, but one worth acquiring.

The Moodists utilize the tested virtues of two guitars, bass and drums to devastating effect, wearing their influences, mostly of the American Detroit hard-edged variety, like badges of honour. Any notion that they might lack presence was dispelled by a performance whose intensity ranked with the Stooges or MC5 at their peak.

Singer Dave Graney looks deceptively cute and curly but on the boards he is like a man possessed, scorching across the stage with a fervour recalling vintage Iggy Pop.

The Moodists songs rise above the dross that passes for new rock: they have wit and haunting depth. The clamour of *Bad Cabin* or *Runaway* expanded upon in the spooky *Frankie's Negative* is then unbalanced by the psychodrama *Thirsty's Calling*. All the material is delivered with a commitment that inspires the physical reaction which is the definition of great rock'n'roll.

A modest, appreciative crowd were held mesmerized in the Moodists's sway, their enjoyment suggesting that the band's esoteric reputation is overstated. What lingered was the memory of a band without a self-conscious image providing a vibrant Down Under sound that deserves to be on top. To paraphrase the slogan, the Moodists are Australian for rock.

Max Bell

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Philharmonia/Skrowaczewski

Albert Hall/Radio 3

It has been an uncommonly good Proms season. There will inevitably be those who complain that there was too little of this, too much of that, but I suspect that it has come as close as it ever has to being all things to all men. Even comparatively standard concerts usually contained something to add spice, and as if to emphasize that point, unfamiliar, unaccompanied romantic choral music preceded the ritual penultimate-night performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

I say Romantic, but in Mendelssohn's *Hora est* there is at least as much that is baroque, for the work, written when the composer was aged nineteen, begins with a long contrapuntal section for male voices before a spectacular polyphonic ending recalls, of all composers, Gabrieli. The BBC Singers, directed by John Poole, gave a some-

what unfocused performance, the wide and heavy vibrato of the voices obscuring what should have been clear part-writing, and there was no spatial separation between the four choirs, so that opportunity for greater dramatic impact was squandered. Fortunately the ultra-tipsy qualities of Richard Strauss's *Deutsche Motette* provided a more suitable, 20-part texture for this choir.

But the main point of the evening was the Beethoven. If Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, stepping in for an indisposed Lovro von Matačić, nurtured any thoughts of this being an old and tried tradition, he certainly did not show it. The contrast between the Philharmonia Orchestra's playing and the Vienna Philharmonie's Beethoven last week could hardly have been greater. Here, in addition to a superlative sound, there was imagination in place of complacency.

There was an uncommonly musical vocal quartet in Helen Donath, Alfreda Hodgson, Robert Tear, and Gwynne Howell, and besides the resilient Philharmonia Chorus the timpanist, Andrew Smith, deserves special praise for his part in the Scherzo.

Stephen Pettitt

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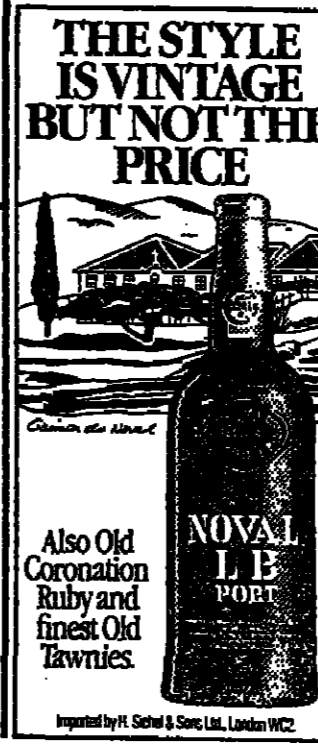
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SPECTRUM

The making of a mistress of suspense

Agatha Christie was Britain's most successful crime writer

but mystery clings to her like a character in her own stories.

Janet Morgan, in the first of three extracts from a new biography, traces her early life.

During her training as a pharmacist Agatha Christie encountered a person of memorably strange demeanour, the more creepy because he was so ordinary. This was one of the principal pharmacists of Torquay, to whom she had been sent for coaching.

He left her to box some preparations, telling her to prepare labels stating that the dose contained a drug in the proportion of one part to a hundred. Agatha, however, was certain that the pharmacist had miscalculated, his actual mixture being ten times as strong.

Sure enough, the decimal point in his calculations was in the wrong place. Agatha knew how easily such errors could be made. She had been horrified by the casual manner in which an experienced pharmacist mixed this and that with the utmost confidence, compared with the prudence of the amateurs in her dispensary. This time she knew he had been dangerously careless.

She did not think it wise to point out the mistake; this man was not, she thought, the sort of person who would admit to having made an error, especially to a student. She deliberately tripped, upset the tray on which the suppositories were cooling and firmly trod on them, apologizing profusely.

That episode was only part of the story. On another occasion, trying to impress her, the pharmacist took from his pocket a lump of stuff and asked her whether she knew what it was: "It's curare," he said. "Know about curare? Interesting stuff, very interesting. Taken by the mouth, it does you no harm at all; enter the bloodstream, it paralyzes and kills you... do you know why I keep it in my pocket?" "No," she said. "I haven't the slightest idea." It seemed to her an extremely foolish thing to do. "Well, you know," he said thoughtfully, "It makes me feel powerful." The pharmacist was to reappear as Mr Zachariah Osborne, in *The Pale Horse*.

It was in the middle of the war that Agatha had first tried her hand at a detective story. There was more than the dispensary and the local pharmacist to incline Agatha to write a murder. The Victorian and Edwardian press had always relished a mystery an every opportunity

was taken to place before the reading public the details of sensational murder trials, with ingenious solutions by special correspondents and lofty summings-up for moralizing editors.

Agatha herself may not have enjoyed these reports, but she was certainly fascinated by problems and puzzles, by aberrant behaviour and the reasons why people departed from normal routine. Perhaps, too, she liked to learn how people kept their secrets hidden, for she herself was secretive.

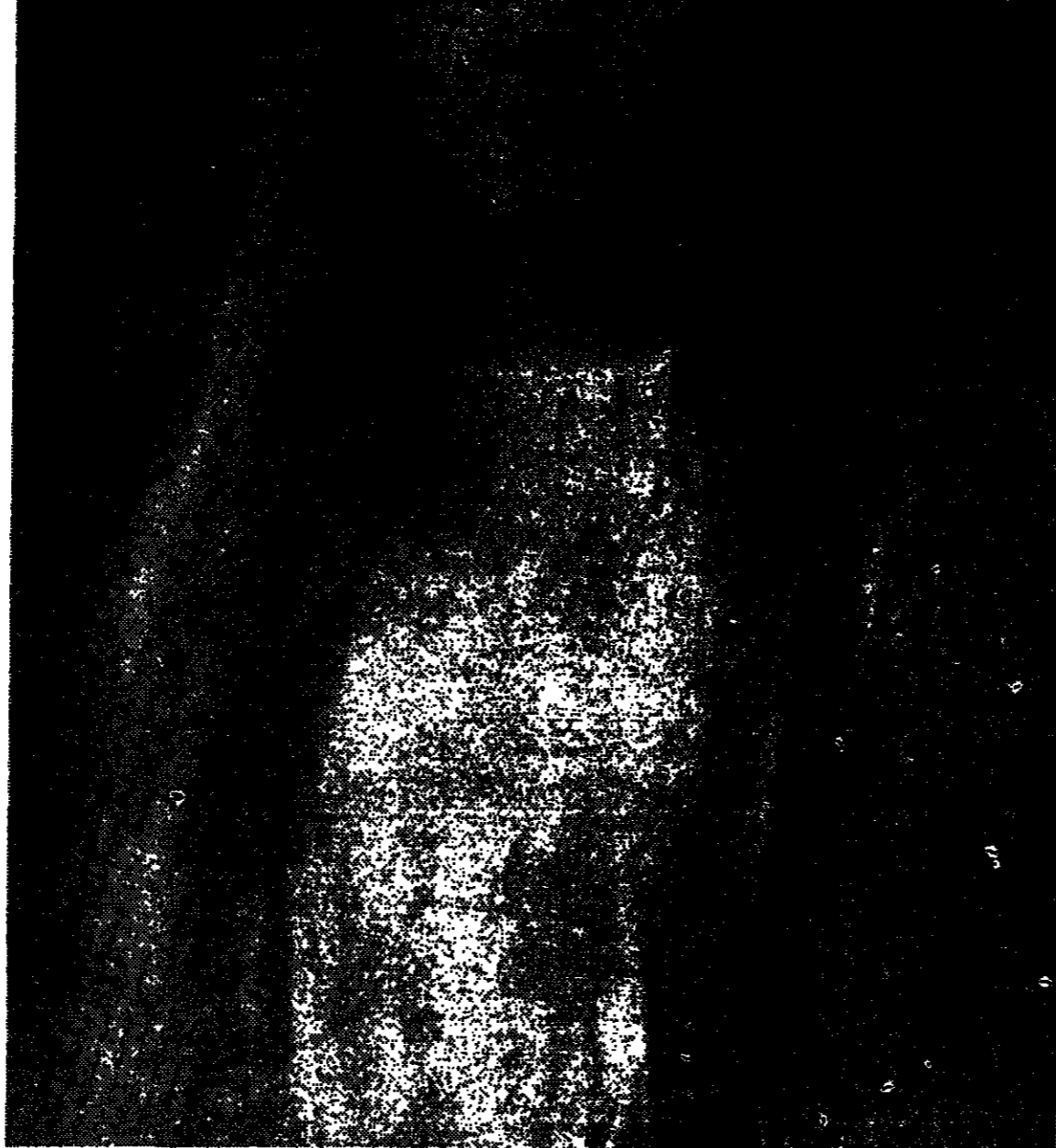
As a child she has been teased about her frosty proclamation, "I don't care for parting with information", when asked why she had not reported that a parlourmaid had been seen tasting soup from the tureen before her parents came into dinner.

Agatha's sister, Madge, had challenged her to write a detective story and she decided to try adopting what was to become her standard practice: beginning by deciding upon the crime and settling on a procedure which made it particularly hard to detect.

She wanted a riddle. "The whole point was that it must be somebody obvious but at the same time, for some reason, you would then find that it was not obvious, that he could not possibly have done it. But really of course he had."

Next came the question of the detective. She wanted a detective of a type which had not been used before, and eventually decided that he should be a Belgian refugee. Torquay was full of Belgian refugees, bewildered and suspicious, who wanted to be left alone. The detective was to be clever, meticulous, with an impressive name and some knowledge of crime and criminals. Agatha made Hercule Poirot a retired Belgian police officer.

There have been a number of theories as to Poirot's origins in Agatha's imagination. Some have pointed to Hercules Poirot, a former member of the Sureté in Paris, who had been created well before the War by Mrs Marie Belloc Lowndes, or to Hercule Flambeau, G K Chesterton's criminal-turned-detective. Others have drawn attention to the fictional Eugène Valmont, formerly "chief detective of the government of France", a character of overweening vanity and tolerant, good-natured con-



Portrait of the artist: Agatha Christie as a young woman

tempt for the English people and, particularly, the English police.

In fact, Poirot was very much Agatha's own invention. She worked on and off at her story, writing it out in long-hand and typing it as each chapter was done. At the half-way point, she became tired and cross at wrestling with the exposition of her plot. So *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* was completed on holiday at the Moorland Hotel at Haytor on Dartmoor.

Agatha wrote all morning, walking over the moor to think out the next part of the book in the afternoon. Then she dined, slept for 12 hours, and set to work again the following morning. With a dozen of these concentrated bursts the back of her work was broken; she brought the draft home, tinkered with it—adding "love interest" on the model of popular detective novels—and sent it away to be professionally typed. It went first to Hodder and Stoughton, came back, went elsewhere, was returned, was sent to Methuen, came back once more, and, last, was despatched to John Lane at The Bodley Head, where it appeared to sink without trace.

Two years later in 1919, John Lane asked her to come to discuss the typescript of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*.

He liked her book, though he suggested various minor alterations and a major change in the

ending. He would publish it, and would give her a 10 per cent royalty on any English sales over 2,000 copies on an American sales exceeding 1,000 copies, together with half of anything the book earned from serial or dramatic rights. The Bodley Head was to have an option, at only a slightly increased rate of royalty, on her next five books. In later years, when Agatha knew her work was popular and her work valuable, she would feel that John Lane had taken advantage of her inexperience. As indeed he had.

The relationship between writer and publisher is studded with traps, but at this first

meeting, matters were relatively simple. John Lane drove a hard bargain with an untied author, who was overjoyed at the thought of her book's being published and who had not contemplated this as a way of earning money.

The serial rights of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* were sold to the *Weekly Times* for £50, of which Agatha received half, and the volume was published in America in 1920 and in England, at seven and sixpence, in 1921.

© Agatha Christie: A Biography by Janet Morgan, to be published by Collins on Thursday, £12.95.

Four memorable portraits of Agatha Christie's immortal detective



Sleuth: Charles Laughton as Hercule Poirot in 1928; Francis L. Sullivan, 1940; Albert Finney, 1974; Peter Ustinov, 1978

moreover... Miles Kingdon

Your guide to armies on the knife-edge

Everybody knows about the Swiss Army Knife, with its typically peace-loving array of screwdrivers, tweezers, scissors and tooth-picks. But did you know that every other army in the world has its own characteristic knife? No?

In that case, here is a selection made by the *More-over Military Staff* of some of the most interesting army knives from around the world, with a brief description of their specialities.

American Army Knife. Is marked clearly "American Military Adviser's Knife". It does not possess any blades or indeed anything except a large red button marked "THIS MUST NEVER BE PUSHED". If you do push it, nothing will happen, as the microchip will malfunction.

Libyan People's Army Knife. Has many, many blades, all pointing away from Tripoli and towards Colonel Gaddafi's enemies. Comes in its own unspeakable diplomatic bag.

Portuguese Army Knife. Has a whole range of attachments for mending fishing nets, getting lamp-holders out of Mateus Rose bottles, etc. Its most unusual feature is a device for opening tins of anchovies after the thing on

the anchovy tin has broken off.

Afghan Army Knife. Made in Russia, designed in Russia, hand-polished in Russia. When opened, it stabs a Russian.

Swedish Army Knife. The only pen-knife in the world which can locate a Russian submarine. That is all it can do. It cannot destroy a Russian submarine or even inflict the slightest damage on a Russian submarine. But boy, can it locate Russian submarines!

Spanish Army Knife. When opened, tries to take over the government.

Danish Army Knife. Comes in two models - the Antique which, when opened, stabs Polonius in the arras, and the Modern, which does not do

anything but is terribly well designed, and has won ever so many awards.

Icelandic Army Knife. Gives off hot steam.

Scottish Army Knife. Goes down stockings to stop enemies biting you in the leg.

Welsh Army Knife. Has a big blade for destroying English second homes.

Irish Army Knife. Can open any stout bottle but will not kill snakes.

Iranian Army Knife. Comes in two models. One for cutting hands and feet off. One for impaling a mushroom, tomato, piece of lamb, green pepper, then repeat until full, and barbecue over fire.

English Army Knife. When opened, buys an American Army Knife.

Monaco Army Knife. Spin it on its side and bet which way it will end up facing.

Japanese Army Knife. The old-fashioned model was used simply for stabbing yourself in moments of melancholia. The modern Japanese Army Knife is a totally electronic device which films you using it and then plays back an instant video recording of you doing it.

Italian Army Knife. The old model, which featured only a small white flag, has long since been withdrawn. Modern versions have a blade for stabbing your best friend or your wife, whoever seems more guilty.

Israeli Army Knife. Has unusual attachments for grapefruit peeling, avocado disembowelling, circumcision etc, and can be mobilized quicker than any other known army knife. And it is only £10. Well, £12. All right, £15, but that is my last offer - you know what inflation is like.

South African Army Knife. The only knife in the world which can push people out of a window and then prove it didn't.

French Army Knife. As you

might expect, the most sophisticated in the world. The basic model has only fork, spoon, napkin, baguette, vinaigrette and a thing for getting snails out of shells. The next model up has a corkscrew, garlic press, mandoline, mouli-legumes and a Michelin Guide.

The next one up has key for your mistress's flat, spare needle for old Django records, rosary, etc. The most sophisticated of all includes a contraceptive and a suppository. (More army knives coming soon.)

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 - 10 S American monkey (8)
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 - 13 Smelling salts bottle (11)
 - 17 Quietest (4)
 - 18 Scout gathering (8)
 - 21 Israeli Parliament (7)
 - 22 Acute anxiety (5)
 - 23 Turner (7)
 - 24 Work dough (5)

- DOWN
- 1 Political revolt (6)
 - 2 Head skin (5)
 - 3 Notable (8)
 - 4 Terebinth coach (7,6)
 - 5 Courage (4)
 - 6 Illness (7)
 - 7 Sausage in roll (3,3)
 - 12 Deep black (3,5)
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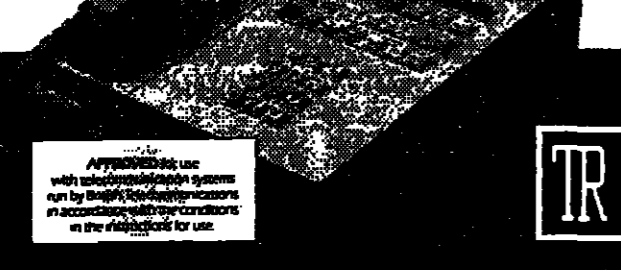
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MONDAY PAGE

Sorry, there's no such thing as an original lunch

Does ratatouille belong exclusively to Elizabeth David, here with cream to Jane Grigson and potatoes crumble to the estate of Alice B. Toklas? Very possibly, now that the cookery writer Richard Olney, author of *Simple French Cookery*, has successfully sued Richard Nelson, author of *Richard Nelson's American Cookery*, for plagiarism.

I do not care for the implications of this. In the first place, it is raising cookery to the level of an art form such as a novel or a piece of sculpture and, in the second place, it is giving a rigid structure to something that ought to be casual stuff. Preparing a meal is frightening enough as it is without having to feel that you're recreating the culinary equivalent of *The Waste Land*.

There is also, as you may have noticed, an in-the-third-place, which is how the heck did French recipes get into a collection of Americana. But I dare say

this is a matter for Messrs Olney and Nelson's lawyers.

The judgment seems pretty peculiar to me. I can quite see that you might land yourself in trouble if you made a meticulous copy of a David Hockney painting and then offered it for sale, albeit unsigned. Mr Hockney could complain that he'd got there first, that before he put brush to canvas that particular arrangement of shape and colour had not existed.

But how can cookery writers claim the same? Unless they have actually invented the ingredients, their recipes, like the moon, surely belong to everyone. In fact, several cookery writers admit to some exotic provocation. "I first came upon this local dish of frogs' legs stuffed with lobster mouseline in Mme Poubelle's intimate little brasserie in Marrakech."

Or: "That evening, Controver-

sa, the landlord's daughter, served me this interesting version of frumenty. The pinch of cocaine gives it that extra bite but, if unavailable, you can substitute a level teaspoon of hundreds and thousands."

Presumably, Mr Nelson's book referred to recipes that Americans had actually been enjoying for some time while Mr Olney's contained recipes that he had stumbled upon in France. How can they then be in any way exclusive or subject to copyright? It looks like the wooden spoon brigade is suffering from a surfeit of paranoia.

What is true about recipes is that they conform to Kuhn's system of paradigms (or rather what I remember about Kuhn's system of paradigms as it is a long time since I studied sociology). Kuhn's theory was that you got a certain set of circumstances and, sooner rather than



PENNY PERRICK

later, lots of people started to cotton on to what these circumstances meant and began to move in a different direction from the one they'd been taking.

He didn't go into food in any great detail or reveal why people began to eat certain things at certain times, but I will. Now,

suppose you suddenly get cheap foreign travel, plus a bit more leisure, plus increased consumer spending. What happens is that, whoops-a-daisy, everyone starts sticking bits of garlic in their joint of lamb. Which is what happened after the war and explains the Elizabeth David boom, especially since most people were heartily sick of Steamed Shape and Rissoles.

Then, suppose there's a general feeling in the air that being overweight is somehow linked to heart disease, high blood pressure and not being thought attractive to anyone except the odd Arab brigand. What happens? Why, nouvelle cuisine, of course.

Before you can say radicio, every restaurant in the *Good Food Guide* is serving vegetable terrine and teeny-weeny slices of warmed duck sprinkled on a salad and beautiful orange sauces

arranged under a minute scrap of something or other.

Several cookery writers may say they were the first to serve forth such delicacies, but they must have all done so within minutes of each other, proving Kuhn right as always.

Once a sociologist, always a sociologist, and what I can see around me now is a renewed emphasis on work rather than leisure. With rising unemployment, the chic thing is to be a workaholic and never have time to eat. So I predict the demise of meal times and the rise of work-related food. I wonder who will be the first cookery writer to copyright the recipe for something called A Sandwich.

Participation, decentralization, local democracy... when the founders of the SDP incorporated these concepts into their

political credo they must have forgotten that those who have a burning urge to participate are born troublemakers.

They are unlikely to forget again. Not after witnessing the performance of the delegate from Berkshire, the sort of check-jacketed young man you hope is never going to marry your daughter, participating like billy-o on the first day of the SDP conference. Not content to leave such criticisms to non-members, he turned on his party for being in thrall to people who live in Hampstead and drive Volvos.

Well, that's the kind of support you can expect if you insist on building a world fit for busybodies. Now that Dr Owen is down to his last 50,000 fully participating members, maybe he'll find it more profitable to turn his charisma on the millions of us who are mild-mannered non-joiners. Indolent we may be but we still have the vote.

Why are schools taking the gloves off?

Compton Miller explains why the once-noble art of boxing is fast disappearing from the private education curriculum

Britain's public schools are going soft. The time-honoured character-building rituals of booting a football, burying your head in a scrum or snoring-bashing in the cadet force have gone the way of fighting, the game and cold baths. They are no longer compulsory at most of our ancient seats of learning.

One sport in particular has taken a beating, boxing. The once-noble art is now barely on the curriculum of the 220 schools belonging to the Headmasters' Conference. An official of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools - members include Summer Fields, the Dragon School and Hawtreys - could not recall a single member that still boxed. "It's completely faded out."

The bare-fisted fighting tradition once displayed at Harrow by Lord Byron has yielded to gentler sports like hockey, fives, squash, golf, badminton and tennis.

"In the 1950s you played cricket, soccer, rugby and that was that," recalls a retired schoolmaster. "Boxing, fencing and swimming were optional. But now with archery, chess, computers and all the rest, boys have a larger choice. Being smashed about in the boxing ring has rather lost its attraction."

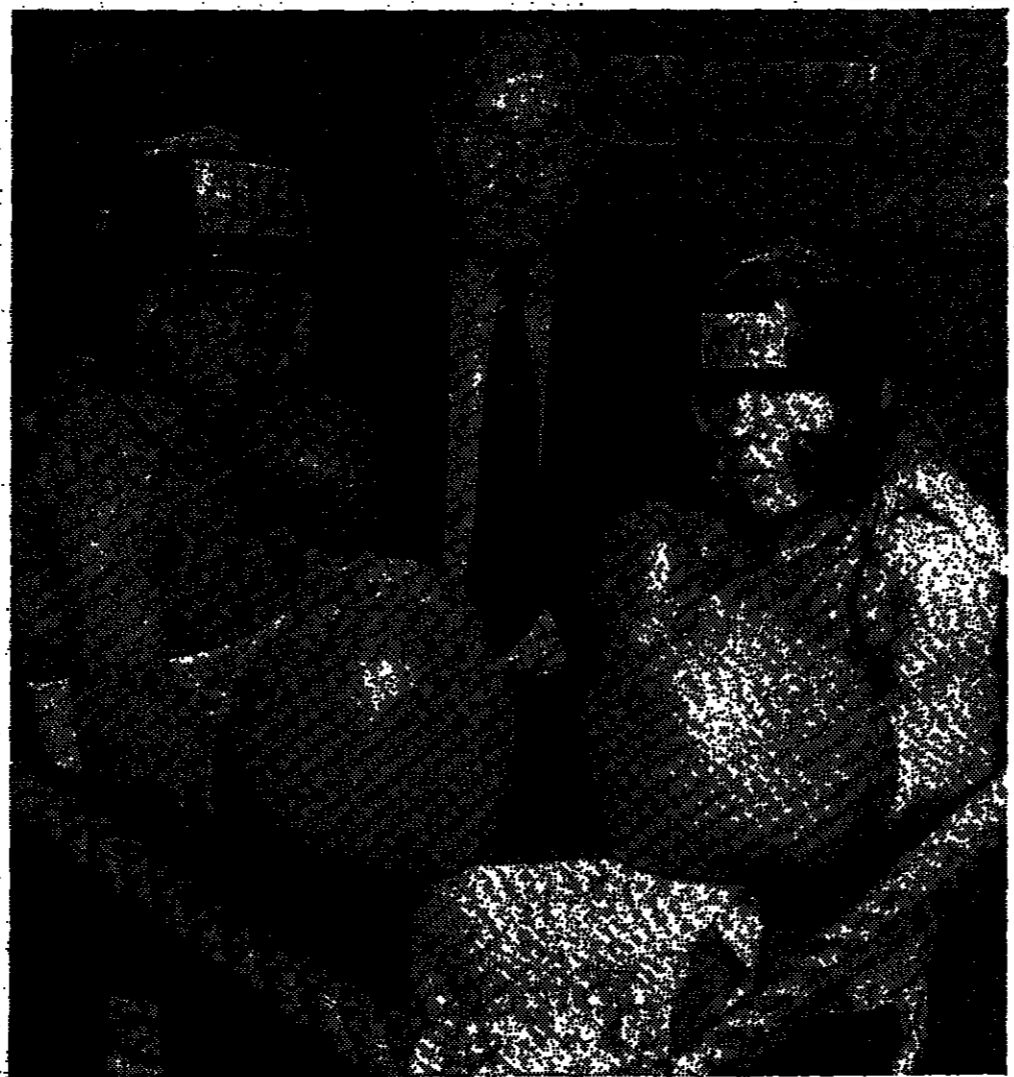
Since Baroness Summerskill's pioneering debates in the House of Commons nearly 30 years ago, the boxing-is-dangerous lobby has won an almost complete victory. Yet public school rugby, about which doctors have recently given an equally alarming diagnosis, vigorously continues, aided by new safety rules.

The British Medical Association wants to see boxing banned within the next 10 years, not only at schools, youth clubs and universities, but professionally too. A report from its science and education working party concluded that a single punch is capable of causing permanent brain damage. And it revealed that at least 340 boxers had died worldwide since the last war from injuries sustained in the ring. Hundreds more have gone blind, had their sight seriously impaired or experienced severe mental disorders.

The debate continues. Some doctors condemn the sport as "hazardous, brutish... an affront to civilized standards", while pro-pupils demand a more scientific study of both long and short-term effects, particularly of the condition known as "punch-drunkness".

Sir Nicholas Bolton, aged 41, Tory MP for Uppingham, a former Oxford boxing champion and chairman of the Old Etonian Boxing Association, says: "I feel very strongly that boxing should be allowed to continue in schools. But it's important that proper controls are maintained, particularly with regard to the matching of age and weight. The most dangerous spectacle is when you get a hefty 14-year-old slugging it out against an experienced 18-year-old."

"Of course boxing is a risky sport. But the injury ratio is far



Sparring partners: Schools Boxing Association chairman Albert Carr with Simon Carr, 15 (left) and Edward Jackson, 14, both members of the Ollerton and Bevercotes Club

mittee in Los Angeles this summer, offer an acceptable degree of protection. However the British Medical Association stressed in July that this was nonsense.

The British Dental Association recommends that boxers wear gum-shields specially fitted to a dental surgeon. "Those plastic do-it-yourself mouth-guard sets can fracture under pressure and cause asphyxiation," says Keith Johnson, BDA secretary.

Last year the Royal Society compiled a league table of British fatalities in four "adventure" sports. It revealed that amateur boxing resulted in one death per two million participants. This compared with 20 deaths from using canoes, 70 from motor-cycle racing and 80 from rock-climbing.

The risk of boys suffering broken noses and black eyes, losing teeth and even being knocked unconscious used to be part of the spartan, militaristic, empire-building public school ethos. The Queensberry rules protected the weak. Ken Duncan, of educational advisers Gabbitts-Thring, believes that headmasters are now forced to heed parental wishes in relation to discipline and school activities.

"In the old days parents rarely interfered," he recalls. "They put their child into boarding school at eight and hoped that he came out a man 10 years later. The country's financial state has had a knock-on effect. Public schools can no longer afford to be so selective over pupils. There are many first-time buyers - people in the media, advertising and so on - who don't accept the traditional view."

Not every establishment has yielded to the abolitionists. Winchester, of all places, with its lofty academic reputation to maintain, still allows pupils to punish their scholarly craniums in the ring. "There are just a few young gentlemen who box," admits John Thorn, the headmaster. "Our physical education staff will provide instruction if asked, but we no longer have a boxing master. Personally, I see no point in flinching with danger."

The public school boycott of the noble art has surprised some doctors and the ring-side experts who maintain that with proper safeguards it is less dangerous than other sports. Many argue that headguards as insisted upon by the Olympic Com-

FOR SALE

7 SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS AERODROMES OWNED BY CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

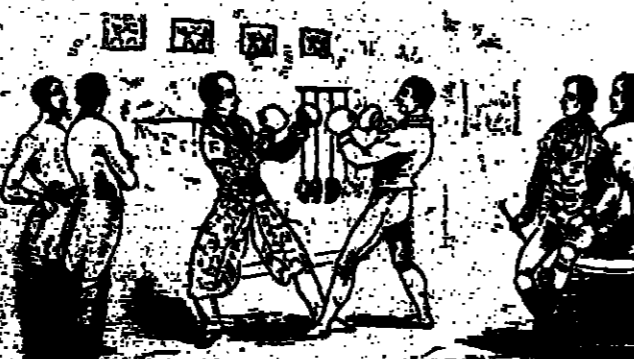
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Aerodrome	Area (Acres)	Traffic Income Year ended March 1984 (£)
SUMBURGH (SHETLAND)	270	2,979,000
INVERNESS	533	1,042,000
KIRKWALL (ORKNEY)	350	318,000
BENBECULA	503	271,000
WICK	405	162,000
ISLAY	403	50,000
TIREE	1140	35,000

CAA AERODROMES

Civil Aviation Authority



The sport of gentlemen: Lord Byron (left) shapes up

THE TIMES DIARY

Twice shy

Mr Alexander Haig, the failed "shuttle negotiator" in the Falklands crisis, clearly thinks the Belgrano affair is too hot to handle. When approached by Thames Television to take part in tomorrow's *Debating Programme* on the subject, Haig's long-serving staff assistant Woody Goldberg said: "It's strange that you should mention that. Only this morning the general and I were reading a report of Dr David Owen's speech in which he argued that your Prime Minister was in the early stages of a Watergate of the Belgrano affair. General Haig has endured one Watergate in his time, and I guess he's not about to walk into another." A wise man. It was Haig who was effectively in charge of President Nixon's White House during the tense weeks leading up to Nixon's resignation.

On the record

Mr Haig's reluctance to speak on the Belgrano "special" may not, of course, be entirely unrelated to tomorrow's lineup of original speakers, such as one Tam Dalyell. Irrepressible as ever, "Belgrano Tam" now feels, in the light of recent disclosures, that his suspension from the House in May for accusing Mrs Thatcher of lying over its sinking was unjustified. Stung by an aside from a Commons clerk that MPs get themselves suspended as an act of political calculation, Dalyell tells me he has written to Speaker Weatherill asking him to remove the blot from his record. However, I fear his request, of which there is no precedent, (there is no precedent for expunging records) will cut little ice. As the Speaker told the errant MP at the time, the word file is one just not used in the House.

Flying picket

Could Tony Benn be the politician's answer to Superman? His is billed to speak tonight almost simultaneously at three separate events: at 7.15 he is waxing eloquent in support of striking miners in Merton, South London. At 7.30 he plans to repeat the message in Lambeth Town Hall — and, at the same time, berate the Government on behalf of the GLC in Porchester Hall, Hammersmith.

Not so Cohse

London estate agents Strutt and Parker are trying a shade too hard to help its clients, International Hospitals, find properties to convert into private nursing homes. A "Private and Confidential" letter, leaked to the diary, opens: "We are writing to you in the knowledge that your organization may have suitable properties. Our clients are seeking to purchase the freehold of either existing homes or alternatively large country houses, educational establishments, hostels, etc, which are suitable for conversion." I fear the recipient of the letter will be unlikely to help. He is David Williams, General Secretary of the staunchly anti-private medical health union Cohse.

● On the front of the plastic binder supposedly containing *Justice of the Peace* magazine at Manchester City Library is a sticker reading: "Please ask at the applications window for this periodical owing to continual theft."

Who can tell?

Good news for Moscow's Ministry of Truth in 1984. The prospect of a book expected to expose its workings seems to have disappeared along with its author, Russian defector Oleg Bitov. *Tales I Could Not Tell* had been signed up by Hamish Hamilton in London and Morrow in America, and was due for delivery in March. His agent, Hilary Rubinstein, tells me he spoke to the former editor of Moscow's *Literary Gazette* about a month ago but did not know if he had begun work on the opus. "I cannot pretend I'm very hopeful," he says. The tales, for which Bitov had already been paid a third of his £5,000 advance from Hamilton's, seem destined to remain untold: Bitov has since gone missing in mysterious circumstances.

Safety first

With the trouble-free birth of her second son, the Princess of Wales looks likely to make one of her first public appearances at a particularly appropriate event: a "Christmas" fair being staged by the charity Birthright on October 30. In aid of research into safer childbirth methods.

Denning's lore

Lord Denning, at the ripe old age of 85, is once again about to step into political controversy. In a forthcoming book he challenges the Government's repeated assertion that it has remained aloof from the miners' strike. Why then, he asks, has the law relating to unlawful assembly not been more strongly enforced on the pickets? "One can only surmise that the Government has decided that such action would solidify trade union opposition," he tells me, adding, "It seems to be a matter of high policy." One hopes that his new book *Landmarks in the Law* — which also covers such sensitive issues as international terrorism and union rights at GCHQ — has been more carefully scrutinized than his earlier work, *What Next in the Law*. A careless comment about black jurors in the book meant that it had to be withdrawn. Lord Denning retired shortly afterwards at the age of 83.

PHS

Why the Liberals must grow up

by Richard Holme

There is a perennial Fleet Street judgement on the Liberal Party, which surfaces each year in the conference season. It goes something like this: "The modern Liberal Party has not held power, therefore it is not fit to hold power."

It is a neat Catch 22, which like all the best lines never loses its power to infuriate. Yet when the Liberal Party is reproached again, as it will be in the coming week, for not having been a part of the glittering success story of post-war British government, it might be wise to ponder the reproach rather than dismissing it as unfair.

The sort of adjectives used by the critics are "inexperienced", "naïve", and "irresponsible". Inexperience is an affliction that only time and office will cure. At the local government level it has already been cured. Over 2,000 Liberal councillors are running councils, sharing power and participating in committees in local authorities up and down the country.

It is also arguable that whatever British government needs it is not the same threadbare thespians treading the boards repeatedly in the same dog-eared production. This recycling of Tory and Labour politicians, grown hoarse with the ritual of adversary politics and worn smooth in the ways of Westminster and Whitehall, has not served the country particularly well. Liberals should be ready to assert with conviction that an influx of new

blood, of people whose experience has been forged outside the environs of SW1, would revive the tired body politic.

Naïveté is a deadly accusation in our cynical society but, perhaps, Liberals should take it as a compliment. One of the qualities which has distinguished a party operating largely outside the system is an innocence which allows it to ask fundamental questions about the way our society operates.

The concentration of people who are active in the voluntary and environmental movements at the Liberal Assembly is no coincidence. Encouraging people to work together to take charge of their own immediate circumstances engenders a very healthy grass-roots approach which contrasts with the top-down paternalism of the two old parties. It helps the Liberals reach parts of the electorate which the others do not even know exist.

The Liberal Party acts as a bridge between the conventional power structures and the growing army of people outside them.

The third charge however, that of irresponsibility, cannot be so easily dismissed. The attitude with which Liberal delegates approach debates at the party conference is exhilarated and combative. It is generally well-informed as well. What it has not always been in the past is responsible, in the sense of debating and

voting as if the next step was legislation to be introduced by a Liberal or Alliance government.

In the past this careful attitude could be forgiven. The party had been a long way away from power. Today it is different. With the SDP, the Liberal Party is knocking on the door of power, demanding to be admitted. Whether the electorate, disillusioned by successive Tory and Labour failures, will open the door to this challenge depends on the voters' assessment of the fitness of the Alliance to govern.

This week at Bournemouth the Liberal Party will be under scrutiny from several quarters: critical opponents, analytical press and public, and faintly apprehensive allies. The main focus of their attention will be the defence and disarmament debate.

The polarization of the disarmament issue in Britain between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine on the one hand, and CND and the Greenham Common women on the other, leaves a wide area of opportunity for a Liberal position which combines new initiatives for peace with the basic requirements of common security. Such a position would command majority support in the country.

A change in Nato strategy away from the doctrine of "first use", with its excessive and dangerous reliance on nuclear weapons, is long overdue.

The Government's pretence that Britain can afford Trident, Fortress Falklands and a properly equipped and backed-up British Army on the Rhine, needs to be exposed. As so often before, the Liberal Party is capable of changing the political agenda. Now it will also have to act with the seriousness of a potential government which may be charged with implementing the new agenda.

There are two tests of responsibility on this issue which the party must not fail in debate. The first is a recognition that both defence and disarmament depend on collective international action and that there can be no such thing as nuclear peace in one country. The second is accepting that the objective of new initiatives from Britain or Nato should be, and should be seen to be, to elicit reciprocity from the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact within a reasonable period of time. Empty gestures which are an end in themselves may be acceptable for a party of government.

The Liberal Party, and the Alliance, will succeed to the extent that it combines hope and realism in its policies. As with disarmament, they must represent a credible plan of action for a reforming Alliance government. If they do it will prove that the hard lessons of responsibility in the local council chambers of Britain have been well learnt.

The author is a former president of the Liberal Party.

Paul Routledge asks whether the TUC can help to find a speedier solution to the coal strike



Scargill, MacGregor (right): Violence at Kellingley Colliery last week. Can the "three wise men" break the impasse?



Third opinion that could cast open the talks

At the start of its twenty-eighth gruelling week, the miners' strike appears to have reached a watershed. The problem now is to determine down which side the water is going to flow after the negotiation stalemate.

One thing is certain: bitter disappointment has been registered in the coalfields at the collapse of last week's peace talks, aimed at bridging the gap between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers on criteria for establishing what is an exhausted pit.

There are signs that the failure of the peace process has prompted more men to think about calling it a day, so the pickets will be out in Yorkshire again this morning to prevent any acceleration in the drift back to work. Politically minded miners are taking a confrontation going on well into the winter and coal sheds are filling up with fuel collected from the colliery spoil heaps.

But there is a new dimension in the dispute that counsels against despair. The TUC is charged with securing a "fair and satisfactory settlement" to the strike, and this week will see a hectic drama played out behind the scenes to get the negotiations restarted.

The TUC is also under a self-imposed instruction to give "total support" to the objectives of the miners, by raising cash and halting the supply of coal and oil across official NUM picket lines to power stations and steel works. That process starts today with what is likely to be a rancorous meeting of electricity supply unions.

The private comments of TUC leaders make it clear, however, that they are less interested in the war process than in the peace process. Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, is likely to be given an audience at Congress House, to explain why his package of measures is "a basis for a reasonable settlement and an immediate resumption of work."

The trade union movement's "three

wise men" — Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, Mr David Bassett, chairman of its economic committee, and immediate past chairman Mr Ray Buckton — are officially only monitoring the talks. Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, insists he has a pledge from the TUC not to interfere in detailed bargaining between the two sides. Even assuming he is correct, it will become progressively harder for the TUC not to take a view about NCB proposals as the Labour movement as a whole is drawn deeper into the dispute.

And therein lies a possible route out of the deadlock, though not the one proposed yesterday by Energy Secretary Mr Peter Walker. He wants the TUC to call on the miners' union to put the latest "final offer" to a ballot of the men, and call off intimidatory picketing in the meantime. His suggestion would make it more difficult rather than less for the TUC to extricate the industry from its current crisis. If the miners begin to suspect that Congress House is "doing the Government's bidding", their traditional suspicion of the TUC will be revived, and they will dive back into their trenches.

Some see the TUC's role as one of taking a broader view of the conflict, and so rescuing the negotiations from the sterile round of exchanges on the definition of an exhausted pit. The record of last week's talks looks in retrospect more like a badly-guided tour of Roger's *Thesaurus* than a serious blueprint for the

future of one of Britain's basic industries.

The talks have concentrated almost exclusively on Clause 3 (C) of the draft settlement, which encapsulates the argument over pit closures. The NCB wants to shut down mines that do not have coal reserves which can be developed "to provide the board in line with their responsibilities with a basis for continuing operations". The NUM wants the pit closures to read "in line with the plan for coal".

Beneath this seeming semantic difference lies a yawning gulf of business philosophy. The coal board version would allow the closure of uneconomic pits while the NUM version would effectively give the union a veto.

Left to themselves it is unlikely that the parties could ever agree on a form of words to bridge that gap. It is a tribute to the native cunning of the NUM leadership that the argument has been confined almost entirely to that issue. It is a measure of the board's determined refusal to be shifted from its intention to establish management hegemony that the negotiations have not slipped into a shoddy compromise.

The Government shares the objectives of MacGregor. The TUC sympathizes with the objectives of the miners to save their jobs, pits and communities. But when push comes to shove, other union leaders who have seen great chunks of their own industries go to the wall in the economic recession are unlikely to be shifted from the way with Scargill's fundamentalist policy that every pit

— however much money it is losing — must stay open until its mineable reserves have been exhausted.

Attention may therefore be shifted to reaching a more comprehensive package for the industry. Some elements of this are already there, though they have been pushed into the background by the understandable obsession with pit closures. The coal board is promising to repair this omission by telling its employees of its six-point plan which incorporates a 100-million tonne output with the prospect of expansion; no compulsory redundancies, a job for every man in the industry affected by closures; improved redundancy payments; 5.2 per cent wage increases backdated to November 1, 1983 and continuing high investment in new capacity.

The "elder statesmen" of the TUC met later this week to review the outcome of talks on sympathetic action and the prospect of reopening bi-lateral contacts between the NUM and the NCB, possibly through the good offices of the conciliation service Acas. This is evidently the preferred way out of the impasse and it looks like a runner after yesterday's emergency session of the NUM executive.

Scargill talks about putting his case to an independent body. MacGregor talks about persuading the TUC how right he is, although he shares ministerial distrust of third party intervention in the dispute. Once out of their private battleground the two sides will have to argue their corner more convincingly and on a broader front, which could pave the way for a more comprehensive solution.

Some form of independent assessment of the conflict would at least shed more light on the merits of the miners' case and the justification of the coal board's tough line. In the end only the combatants can settle the dispute. The most serious flaw in the "third party" solution is the fact that neither side is yet close enough to defeat to feel compelled to make the principled concession that would end the deadlock once and for all. However, it is still worth a try.

But the smuggling chain was a long one and one of those with hand in glove. It was the South African-backed UNITA rebel leader who has been fighting the Lusaka government for nine years. When DSIL tightened up security at the mines his revenue dropped, and revenge was certainly one reason which led him to attack the diamond mines in February this year. His guerrillas included 17 Britons, four of them DSIL employees. Ironically the guerrillas missed the diamonds stored at the mine offices.

Although DSIL succeeded in its allotted task, and provided the Angolan government with the ammunition for their trial, derogatory rumours persisted and proved fatal. Its contract, only 18 months old, was not renewed. It is said that the Cubans and East Germans in Angola did not like the idea of British service personnel, even former ones, working so closely with them. By March the company which had done most to stamp out diamond theft in Angola had left the country.

De Beers therefore recommended the Luanda government to employ a British firm, Defence Systems International Limited, to try to staunch the flow of stones and train a local anti-smuggling force.

DSIL, set up by former Special Air Services men and headed by Lord Monkton of Brechley, employs former servicemen — many of them ex-SAS — to carry out offbeat security jobs. From the moment they arrived in Angola in 1982 they attracted suspicion and speculation. One report said they were flying helicopter gunships to protect the mines.

In fact they simply applied common sense to the protection of the mines and stood about in

Richard Dowden

Anne Sofer

This odd campaign to stop us voting

Boycotting ballots is a current vogue. It is happening not just in undemocratic South Africa, where the arguments for it makes sense, but in democratic Britain: and to find the TSWU and Conservative Central Office using the same piquant delight. As in Tilbury last week, so in the GLC by-elections next week, the side that knows it is going to lose refuses to participate, works actively for a low poll and then claims that all abstentions are support for its own position.

Stephen Govier, a Conservative Westminster City councillor, put the case like this in a recent letter to *The Guardian*: "If, in the final analysis, less than 50 per cent turn out to vote, then change will have been endorsed, and there will remain little justification for retention of the GLC."

Thus does he appropriate to his side of the argument everyone on the electoral register who does not turn out on the day; and this includes, presumably, those who are no longer living in the area, those visiting granny in Aberystwyth, stuck in a traffic jam, or dead.

One extraordinary aspect of these by-elections is the way they illustrate two well-recognized dangers inherent in the democratic system, with each attached to the wrong party. The notion that the winning party should be bound to the letter of its manifesto — always a left wing favourite — has now been adopted by Mrs Thatcher. And the possibility of huge expenditures on advertising swaying the vote — always seen as an in-built advantage to the richer Conservative Party — is now exploited by the Labour Party at the ratepayer's expense.

An intriguing new area of legal debate is opened up by the behaviour of the Conservative party in these by-elections. If campaigning to persuade people not to vote is a legitimate activity under the Representation of the People Act (a questionable proposition, but let it go for the moment), should this activity be subject to the law on election expenses? If, at the end of the day, the Conservatives spend more on activities connected with the election than the Labour and Alliance parties combined and well over the limit for a single party, should this be allowed?

Certainly the barrage of leaflets and personal direct mail approaches must be costing a tidy sum. The Conservatives are in a particularly embarrassing position over these by-elections and it is a measure of that embarrassment that they are prepared to spend so much on what can only, for them, be damage limitation. Many of their activists think the Government is making an appalling mistake in promoting the abolition of the GLC. They know their voters agree with them. What is more, they are divided among themselves about the proper tactics for the by-elections.

The local parties, and the GLC Tory leader, think the only honourable course would have been to fight, but the democratic centralism of the Conservative Party prevented that. So quite a number of them, more or less publicly, are canvassing for the Alliance, knowing that that is the only way of supporting the message they want to convey: Yes to the GLC, No to Livingstone.

I would not put it beyond the bounds of possibility, politics being the tortuous game it is, that some are distributing "Don't Vote" leaflets by day, and Alliance posters by night.

A. Farrar-Hockley

Call up the home guard

As British forces embark this week on the Operation Lionheart exercises in Europe, there is a problem on the horizon which neither the Secretary of State for Defence nor his Opposition counterpart appear to have noticed: that of finding manpower for the defence of Britain itself.

Because Britain's system of regular forces, nuclear or otherwise, is expensive, the forces are once more being squeezed to provide men for combat service. The Territorial Army and auxiliary forces are being expanded to this end.

But the upshot is that the United Kingdom will be denuded of defence forces if war comes and if the Soviet "spetsnaz" terror troops, referred to in this year's defence White Paper, begin operations across the land in parallel with anticipated conventional air attack. The "spetsnaz" are soldiers highly trained in murder and sabotage to an extent that would make the IRA look like hooligans. The first non-nuclear threat to Britain is thus not from conventional sea-borne invasion, but from terrorism infiltrated in advance of mobilization.

It is said by the MoD that "100,000 bayonets" will be available to counter them, but it is not true. Less than a quarter of the men counted in that total will be in units able to undertake mobile counter-terrorist operations. The majority of the home forces will be engaged on air bases, in headquarters and support duties. Put bayonets into their hands to stop infiltrators — or for that matter to assist in the aftermath of air attacks — and other vital activities will come to a halt.

The Government is expanding the reserve, having cut back on the regular content of the forces. Excellent though the former is, it will be difficult to recruit and retain many more than the modest numbers currently proposed; the evidence suggests that we are approaching the limit of numbers willing and able to meet the significant demands on their time and interest. Even if another 20,000

Then there is the additional complication caused by Mr George Trevellick, a member of the GLC Conservative Group who is sometimes euphemistically referred to as a maverick. Having denounced Ken Livingstone three years ago as a man who wants to "undermine the institutions of the state as a prelude to revolution", and who "does not care how much damage he causes" in the process — the quotation is from *The Times* — he is now asking all the people of London to vote for Livingstone.

But Conservative voters are not the only ones who are being confused and misled. Many Labour voters appear to believe that a vote for Labour on this occasion will actually "save" the GLC — not simply through the force of public opinion, but through the electoral mechanism itself. Victory for Mr Livingstone and his colleagues they are led to believe, will automatically kill the bill. This is a dangerous delusion — dangerous because the ensuing disillusionment could easily encourage the belief that the road to change is not through the ballot box. Maybe that is the intention.

The Labour Party should have learnt from Mr Heath's experience in 1974 that nobody calling an election has a right to determine its agenda. In fact, abolition is not the issue in these elections. All the major parties standing in the election are pledged to continue fighting the Government tooth and nail in its appallingly misjudged legislation. The issue is the way the GLC should be run.

If Labour win all four seats comfortably, they will take this to be an endorsement not simply of their position on the future of the GLC, but of their policy stance generally. They will harden in their determination to go for all-out confrontation with the Government next spring over rate-capping. The huge amounts of money spent on political advertising and campaigning will continue, and the mobilization of the other Labour authorities will be intensified. Next summer could see the most terrible chaos in London with vital services coming to a standstill as Government and Labour authorities face each other out. As in the current miners' dispute, both will give political victory a higher priority than human need.

The better the Alliance does in the election, the more that nightmare recedes. If Ken Livingstone or any of his colleagues are defeated, or crawl back red-faced to County Hall by a narrow margin, the chastening effect can only be helpful. Similarly, Mrs Thatcher, if presented with a result that is any way embarrassing to Labour, may well find it easier to lever herself off the hook on which she has so disastrously and carelessly impaled herself.

This would be even more likely to happen if the Alliance were to win three or four seats and secure the balance of power. We know there are people of ability in all parties in County Hall who desperately want to avert the coming crisis, and who care more about the preservation of the social fabric in London than they do about political posturing. We hope they would be prepared to join with us in presenting a new face in the Government; and — having put the non-stop all-singing, all-dancing, three year festival of agit-prop behind us — beg it, with all seriousness, to think again.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Angola breaks the diamond ring

In an enormous show trial of diamond smugglers the Angolan government claims to have broken up a vast network of diamond thieves and currency smugglers. As much as a third of diamond production may have been lost every year, costing the country millions of pounds of crucial foreign exchange.

But the organization which stopped the theft of diamonds was a small British company which has since been sacked by the Angolans.

The aim of the trial was to deter, it was given prominent coverage in the state-controlled media which accused the defendants of being "steeped in bourgeois vices and pleasures". Five of those convicted are awaiting death sentences demanded by the prosecutor and hundreds of others are awaiting trial on similar charges.

It has been a bizarre affair. The accused have names like "Zeca Siberia" and "Big Job" and are supposed to have exchanged diamonds for cars, stereos and bags of dollars. To emphasize the link between economic sabotage and an international conspiracy to destabilize Angola, one of the defendants is accused of spying for the United States (he used the revolution). The culprit in the court's eyes have been the middlemen. Some of

them are Portuguese or Angolan airline pilots who carried the diamonds — on which the country depends — out of the country. Others were petty officials or small businessmen; one was an army major and there were some from the state security organization. Two members of the ruling party's central committee have been suspended pending investigations arising from the trial.

The Marxist government of Angola had been forced to turn to De Beers, the worldwide diamond monopoly, despite its role as a pillar of arch enemy South Africa. But De Beers could provide the mining skills and, through its subsidiary the Diamond Trading Company in London, a reliable market for the diamonds.

According to De Beers, it is more important to block the source of the diamonds than to catch the middlemen and punish them. Human nature being what it is, a fortune the size of a thumbnail will always find another taker. It is the supplier who must be identified.

De Beers' monopoly of the diamond world means that it knew almost to the carat how much Angola was losing.

Its managers on the ground in Angola could predict how many carats they should be getting from

each cubic yard of gravel they sifted. The Diamond Trading Company, which has agents buying stones on the open market in Antwerp was able to judge what was being smuggled. It could even tell which mine they came from. At one stage Angola was losing between \$5m and \$8m worth of diamonds a month. Some of it was coming from freelance diggers away from the mines but most of it was being stolen by Angolan workers in the sorting houses who pick the diamonds off waxed conveyor belts. It is usually the biggest and most valuable stones that go missing.

De Beers therefore recommended the Luanda government to employ a British firm, Defence Systems International Limited, to try to staunch the flow of stones and train a local anti-smuggling force.

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In fact they simply applied common sense to the protection of the mines and stood about in

vulnerable areas looking like London policemen. Diamond theft fell dramatically and several hundred people in the mining area were arrested.

But the smuggling chain was a long one and one of those with hand in glove. It was the South African-backed UNITA rebel leader who has been fighting the Lusaka government for nine years. When DSIL tightened up security at the mines his revenue dropped, and revenge was certainly one reason which led him to attack the diamond mines in February this year. His guerrillas included 17 Britons, four of them DSIL employees. Ironically the guerrillas missed the diamonds stored at the mine offices.

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Richard Dowden



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

VIOLENCE MUST NOT PAY

The settlement which the NCB has offered to the NUM, whose national executive rejected it on Friday, and will not even risk putting it to the vote of all its members, is a dishonourable one which should now be withdrawn so that any future negotiations start with a clear sheet. It reflects little credit on the Coal Board since its details increase rather than reduce union influence on management decisions. It would, if accepted by the NUM, seriously let down the 65,000 individuals who have continued to work in the coal industry and whose representatives, along with ministers, have privately made clear their misgivings about the nature of the settlement to the Coal Board.

The chairman of the Coal Board, along with his colleagues, is obviously inspired by a passionate desire to resume business. That is understandable, but it has led him in negotiation to preserve only the inner essentials of management control while being prepared to off-load peripheral questions like a troika driver discarding his luggage in order to keep ahead of the wolves.

As a result, any agreement with the NUM would have been couched in such abstruse language, with so much left to be tested on the ground later, that everybody would have been able to claim a victory based on the small print. The British public would not have taken kindly to a settlement for whose real significance one had to search the small print. After six months of unprecedented violence, 6,500 arrests, criminal damage, arson, assault, offensive weapons, riots and conspiracy, should we have to examine the small print to find out if it has all been worth it?

Such a settlement would have two grave consequences. The first would have been to condemn working miners to a dangerous future. It would not so much have affected those working miners at Nottingham who are in a local majority and whose union dues, being the only source of income to the NUM, have been used inconspicuously against them in the financing of violent flying pickets sent south from Yorkshire. It would seriously affect other working miners however, grouped in dozens or in a few hundred who would find themselves heavily

out-numbered by strikers. Their lives would be intolerable, and possibly in danger, sharing a coal face with some of Mr Scargill's lieutenants for whom his declaration that the NUM would never work alongside scabs would mean more than any no-victimisation clause in that same small print. So unless Mr Scargill is now prepared to call a ballot for the whole NUM to vote on the terms available to it, the NCB should not contemplate a future settlement until working miners equal or out-number strikers at most pits.

The second serious consequence of such a settlement would be in the country at large. The public may be sick of the strike and long for a return to the quiet life. But they could only draw one conclusion from a return to work on this formula after the months of organized thuggery which they have witnessed: that violence does indeed pay. They would have to conclude that the forces of law and order, operating both on their own and with general guidance from ministers, had allowed Mr Scargill to organize his private army to conduct violent operations of this kind day after day after day because they had no way of stopping it, but only of containing it at any particular pit-head. Behind that conclusion would lie an even more sombre one: that ministers did not feel that steps could be taken to stop this violence at source because they feared they would be unable to control the wider consequences of such an action.

The Coal Board's objective now should be the protection of working miners, not just to get them back to work through the pickets today and tomorrow but to create conditions for a future settlement which would guarantee that individuals who had come back to work would have no fear of further intimidation from their colleagues at the coal face.

It was thus appropriate that Mr McGregor yesterday brought the question of violence back to the top of the agenda. The issue at the heart of the dispute round the negotiating table may appear to be who should, run the coal industry - board or union - but out there at the pithead and in the minds of the public at large it is the violence which has become the issue.

In the next phase of this

dispute the NUM will clearly do all it can to browbeat and intimidate its members from going back to work, while the TUC will do all it can to give the impression that it is able to provide sufficient support to negate the effects of increased coal production in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere. Is the TUC by its actions thus going to associate itself with Mr Scargill's organized violence? There is little evidence that the Brighton accord has had any effect on the picket lines or resulted in more peaceful methods being applied.

Moreover the focus of the struggle may soon shift to the courts for two reasons. The first is that many of the working miners' committees are bringing actions against the NUM leadership for its abuse of the rule book. These actions, if successful, could progressively threaten Mr Scargill's control of union funds unless he opted for a ballot. The second is that the strike ballot provisions of the Trade Union Act 1984 come into effect on 26 September. They will apply to any industrial action which is initiated by a trade union after that date. Should any union in the TUC be tempted to support the miners it will fall foul of the law in two ways, both on the grounds of secondary action and because it would lose its legal immunities unless it had first held a secret ballot with all those members likely to be called out on strike in support of the miners. The inability of the transport unions to hush their members into line behind the miners suggests that such ballots are not likely to succeed.

The NCB should thus withdraw the package which it has laid on the table unless there is an early and substantive indication that Mr Scargill is prepared to put it to ballot. Having withdrawn that offer the Board should then make its highest priority the protection of working miners. Area managers should devote all their time and energy to helping individuals return to work. Unconquered pits where the NUM withdraws its safety cover should then be closed and the workers transferred immediately to better pits. All this would restore the initiative to the Coal Board, whose position has been eroded during the days of inconclusive bargaining.

PRESIDENTIAL CREEDS

To some observers of the American presidential election it might seem a ready index of the nation's insular self-regard that, with an agenda stacked high with issues of international consequence - the control of federal spending, the arms race with the Soviet Union, Third World debt, pressures for protectionism - Mr Reagan and Mr Mondale should have opened their campaigns crying "holier than thou". The incumbent invokes the deity of manifest destiny; the challenger asserts his broad-cloth piety. The Roman Catholic hierarchy intervenes, apparently in the Republic's favour. The president links himself with a body of religious opinion unchanged in many respects since the Supreme Court key trial in the 1920s. The former vice-president warns of anti-semitism and conjures the establishmentist spectre of George III. Jefferson, even Erasmus are the referees of everyday debate.

Observers would be wrong to criticize; mistaken if they did not see the close connexion between America's rhetorical wars of religion and the values and principles which inform the

United States in international affairs. Unappreciative, of the American genius if they did not applaud the vigour of this debate about the place of religious belief in materialist society?

President Reagan and the hierarchy are surely right to reject the doctrine that politicians should somehow divest themselves of all controversial belief on taking office, in the same way as they are required to separate from compromising financial interests. Ms Ferraro's division between her "private" Catholicism (as a Catholic, she says she is repelled by abortion) and the beliefs which it is legitimate for her to pursue as an office-holder has been criticized by the leaders of her own church. Partisans on both sides seem agreed that political motivation often properly stems from belief instructed or organized by the churches. Mr Mondale derives his collectivism from the community-mindedness of his family's Scandinavian religious background.

The president goes further. He wishes by future Supreme Court appointments, by new law) to re-

dress an imbalance in American public life. America's predominantly Christian nature has been denied in recent years; the religious aspirations of parents for their school-age children thwarted. The president is also saying his office should be a pulpit for the presentation both of his moral tenets and political vehicles for them - as in, for example, tax relief for parents educating their children at religious foundations.

Much of the criticism levelled at Mr Reagan for "bringing religion into politics" is misconceived. The Republican party has always sheltered evangelicals. Its founding lay in religious revulsion at slavery. To be sure, the president flirts with some unappealing characters from the extremes of protestant fundamentalism. But when the Reagan electoral coalition can encompass both the Rev Jerry Falwell and the cardinal archbishop of New York it is clear he is touching a deep and broad-based sense of the displacement of religious faith in modern America. There is no need to fear Elmer Gantry in the White House.

NASEBY'S NEW BATTLE

Again this summer past the bosom of rural England has been ruffled by unaccustomed noise. Village fetes and country fairs have echoed with the clump of ordnance, the rattle of musketry and the halloos of cockaded enthusiasts: the English Civil War Society is on the march. To the society, favouring Parliament and Cromwell, the reenactment of battle and skirmish has no mere value as entertainment; this is our civic heritage. Now, they say, the heritage is endangered. This week the military enthusiasts shouldered their halberds against the threatened despoliation of a corner of the sacred battlefield of Naseby by those public, latter-day agents of the crown, the Department of Transport.

The Northamptonshire uplands around the village of Naseby are not, it must be allowed, the prettiest corner. But here, the watershed of Avon, Nene and Welland, is rich farmland. Here in 1645 Charles I drifted in his indecisive way into battle with Parliament's general, Sir Thomas Fairfax and his new

model army. Was the battle itself a watershed? Some historians think so. Others say that in spite of the loss of prisoners (not many died on either side) the royal cause was not lost. But here undoubtedly was a struggle which, like all great battles, showed folly and courage in equal measure.

Naseby sits, as it did in the seventeenth century, fair and square on the lines of march. This time it is between the communications node formed by the M1, M6 interchange and the line of the A604 route from the east midlands to the coastal ports including (unstriking) Felixstowe. The transport plans lay a dual carriageway round the north of the village, lopping off part of the battlefield.

There is, unmistakably, a conflict - in which the inhabitants of Naseby, last stirred to action by the arrival in the village of Joseph Arch and a thousand stinking farmworkers, appear to be against change. The civil war enthusiasts should not overstate their case, however.

Until recently all that marked the battlefield was a badly sited plinth 200 yards across cowslips and grass off the Naseby-Sibbertoft road and a safe distance from the proposed route. From any new road there are winners: the hauliers of Birmingham and the inhabitants of Theddingworth - one of the small villages at present plagued by the former. The proposed link between the M1 and the coast via the A1 symbolizes the growing prosperity of the east midlands region; it probably guarantees the retrieval of Corby New Town from the ghosts of recession.

The loss is less the bounds of an ill-defined ancient battlefield than additional acres of prime agricultural land, with consequent pressures for urban development. On balance, this is a corridor necessary for regional economic health: a road must be built. The protesters, however, would do Parliament a service if at the public inquiry into the road they press the ministry to make convincing show that there is no possibility of a less destructive route.

Taxing jobs out of existence

From Mr Roger Pincham

Sir, The reported response from Whitehall to Prince Philip's criticism of income tax is good evidence of the ruling folklore he complained of in his recent *Punch* article.

The fact that the Treasury is so dependent upon income tax is no excuse for ignoring the direct relationship between the imposition of taxation on wages and salaries and the incidence of unemployment. As the Prince points out, Paye is in reality paid by the employer and is a first charge upon the receipts of his business. There are many businesses, both large and small, which need extra labour and could afford the net cost of extra workers in terms of take-home pay. But the addition of income tax and other labour related charges makes the possible impossible and the viable unviable. Employees remain out of work at great cost to the state and wealth, which would have been created, is lost.

The argument is not for the total abolition of income tax but for an understanding that the imposition of employment related taxes, regardless of capacity to pay, is driving otherwise viable forms of enterprise out of existence and stifling the creation of new opportunities. If the cost of high and rising unemployment is simply loaded on to employment-related taxes, more and more jobs will be forced to the wrong side of the threshold of viability.

In the end all revenue comes from the creation of wealth and taxes on wages and salaries are by no means the only way of raising it. We need to rely more upon forms of taxation which are directly related to the taxable capacity of the enterprises concerned.

Such are the responsibilities of the state that the overall tax burden is bound to remain high but it cannot be "beneficial" - to borrow a buzz word from the miners' dispute - for the nation to allow useful production and employment to be taxed out of existence.

As unemployment has risen so employment has become a most unsatisfactory base for raising such a high proportion of the nation's revenue.

Yours faithfully,

ROGER PINCHAM,

7 The Postern,

Wood Street,

Barnet, EC22 9EJ

September 15.

Authors' merger

From the Chairman of the Society of Authors

Sir, I thought I had fallen asleep at the largest table and that Mr Plangate Somerset Fry's letter (September 14) thumping away at the Society of Authors was some sort of fantastic dream.

Why, only the day before I had had the pleasure at the Society's Committee of Management of hearing three cases where our expert and pertinacious staff had secured sums owed to members by dilatory publishers, a regular occurrence.

At the same meeting a delegation from our friends the Writers Guild paid tribute to the work of the Society in framing a practical Minimum Terms Agreement (already signed by two major publishers).

Again at that meeting we heard how a number of computer software firms had eagerly co-operated in attempting to work out agreements for this new branch of publishing.

No, if Mr Somerset Fry is in a dream world, the Society of Authors is today very much awake and alert and at the service of any author who cares to join.

Yours faithfully,

H. R. F. KEATINGE, Chairman.

Society of Authors,

As from: 84 Drayton Gardens,

SW10.

September 14.

SDP and the Falklands

From Lord Kennet

Sir, Professor Regan (September 12) wrote a most interesting and comprehensive article. The SDP does not propose to "give Argentina sovereignty over" the Falklands. The policy adopted last week by the Council for Social Democracy (which is the parliament of the Party) reads:

"an arrangement whereby sovereignty is vested in the UN under the provisions of trusteeship, or under the auspices of the Organisation of American States... or under satisfactory arrangements for joint sovereignty."

May be that wording is open to criticism, on grounds of legal imprecision, but not I think because it gives sovereignty to Argentina. And incidentally, not only was sovereignty not Argentina's 150 years ago, or "even before that"; Argentina did not even exist then.

Yours etc.

WAYLAND KENNET,

House of Lords,

September 14.

Attorney General's visit to US

From the Solicitor General

Sir, You carried a report on September 13 that the Attorney General would be flying to Washington to press the United States to drop its investigations into alleged price-fixing agreements by airlines before the Laker collapse. It inferred that his purpose would be to avoid any adverse effect of the investigation on the BA situation. In his letter of September 14, perhaps in reliance on your report, Mr Whitaker suggests that for the Attorney General to do so would be improper.

I am writing to correct the false impression that has been given. Sir Michael flew to the USA on September 9 on a visit fixed some time ago, involving speaking engagements in New Orleans followed by a private visit to Philadelphia. He will break his Philadelphia visit to spend one day in Washington taking up an invitation from a legal colleague in the US Administration with whom he has on several occasions discussed legal problems arising between the UK and the USA.

In Washington Sir Michael will discuss a number of matters, each

of them legal in nature and the subject of previous contacts between Sir Michael and his US legal counterparts. Among them is the disputed claim of jurisdiction by the USA in a number of areas, including the claim to apply anti-trust laws to activities of airlines regulated under the international agreement between the UK and the USA ("Bermuda 2").

There has for some time been a serious dispute on the interpretation of Bermuda 2. One issue is whether the USA has a right to apply its own laws to investigate and regulate the consequences of airlines charging fares established pursuant to Bermuda 2, approved by both Governments and thereafter required by the laws of both countries to be charged.

These matters raise important questions of law for the United Kingdom on which it is the function and duty of the Attorney General to represent the United Kingdom's views regardless of the policy of the Government to privatise any particular undertaking.

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK MAYHEW,

Solicitor General,

Royal Courts of Justice, WC2.

September 14.

Asbestos hazards

From Dr John C. Gilson

Sir, Your macabre picture of asbestos clean up in London (September 6) would cause amazement and disbelief to the inhabitants of the chrysotile mining town of Thetford, Quebec. For many years between the wars the pavements were so white with the dust in the morning that the children left footprints on the way to school.

Yet more than 40 years later careful enquiries have revealed no significant health hazard to the general population. Only those most heavily exposed in the mines and mills were at some risk. Of course modern dust control has now removed the children's fun.

Your reported statement by Mr Dalziel "the problem of asbestos is that we have no idea just how harmful it can be" is far from the facts. No environmental hazard, with the possible exception of cigarette smoking, has been so exhaustively studied.

The health effects of chrysotile asbestos depend on the amount inhaled and the length of time. Thus, exposure from an accidental fire will be of negligible length

compared to a lifetime's work in an asbestos factory.

The "burning flakes of asbestos in the air" have an air of improbability as asbestos is incombustible and fortunately the flakes will be too large to inhale. The fine respirable dust would have been rapidly dispersed by the heat of the fire and the wind, so reducing the fibre concentration to very low levels compared to that in factories using asbestos.

Dr Newhouse recently drew attention in your columns to the alarm and distress such articles cause to those not well able to assess the real risks arising from exposure to asbestos.

The recently published Ontario Royal Commission Report on the Use of Asbestos (P584) has attempted to put the risk into perspective. The risk of death (per 100,000 population/year) is for example, cardiovascular diseases 337, cancers 165, motor vehicle accidents 23, asbestos disease from building exposure 0.029.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. GILSON,

Hemphill Hill Farm,

Donkington,

Devon.

Animal experiments

From Dr Judith E. Hampson

Sir, Dr Vane's ethnocentric letter on animal experiments (September 10) requires comment.

It is true that Western medicine owes a heavy debt to animal experimentation but the great ancient traditions of Ayurvedic and Chinese medicine developed without it and continue to flourish. We are not aware that China or India have collapsed into barbarism or cannibalism.

It is true that we still face many dreadful diseases but in the less developed world it is malnutrition, lack of clean water and inadequate hygiene which underpin their ravages.

Dr Vane would have us believe that the reason d'être of the pharmaceutical industry is the elimination of disease from the world. In 1980 the world pharmaceutical industry spent one per cent of its total research and development funds on Third World diseases (Office of Health Economics statistics).

Between 1971 and 1981 some 230 new chemical entities were developed in the UK. Only one of these was against schistosomiasis, the

commonest disease in the world: 33 were anti-inflammatory drugs, seven were benzodiazepines (Valium-type tranquilizers).

Can we not legitimately question the extent to which the pharmaceutical industry is devoted to the relief of world suffering? Or do millions of experimental animals suffer and die each year primarily to increase market shares in already over-subscribed drugs to combat the diseases of the affluent west?

It is true that alternative forms of therapy cannot deal with all our ills; neither can conventional Western medicine, based on its blinkered, reductionist experimental method. The human condition is crying out for an integrated, holistic approach.

A wider perspective and a good deal less arrogance would go far towards alleviating human suffering as it would towards reducing animal experimentation.

Yours faithfully,

JUDITH E. HAMPSON,

Chief Animal Experimentation

Research Officer,

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,

Causeway,

Horsham,

West Sussex,

September 11.

Mont Louis dangers

From the Editor of Hazardous Cargo Bulletin

Sir, Your correspondent's revelation that there are "enormous loopholes" in the regulations governing the sea transport of dangerous cargoes (September 13) is mistaken. Furthermore, calls by insurers and public pressure groups for mandatory reporting in systems for ships carrying dangerous substances are not only made without knowledge of the existing controls for such traffic, they are exceedingly impractical.

The guiding philosophy behind the packaging standards embodied in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code is that packages containing dangerous goods packed to these standards pose no greater hazard than a crate of washing-up powder or dog food. The vast majority of the world's leading maritime nations incorporate the code's requirements in national law.

At any one time an estimated 15 per cent of all goods in transit are classified, packaged and labelled as dangerous goods. In practical terms this means that virtually every container, roll-on/roll-off and gen-

eral cargo ship at sea has at least one consignment of dangerous goods aboard.

While it is necessary for the ship's master and the shipping company's head office to possess a manifest showing every dangerous goods consignment and location aboard the vessel, requiring all such documentation to be made available to national authorities and coastguards for every ship movement would create a mountain of paperwork to no useful purpose.

Two other aspects of the Mont Louis incident are noteworthy. There are many hundreds of cargoes in transit in substantial volumes each day which pose much greater hazards than the mildly radioactive uranium hexafluoride now being salvaged.

Also, in the headline rush by the press to cover the perils posed by the transport of "nuclear" material, nobody has questioned how and why the collision, involving a cargo ship and a crowded passenger ferry, and with a great potential for loss of life, occurred in the first place.

Yours faithfully,

M. CORKHILL, Editor,

Hazardous Cargo Bulletin,

38 Tavistock Street, WC2,

September 13.

Neglected outpost

From Sir Gordon Whitteridge and Sir Andrew Gilchrist

Sir, As the first and second post-war holders of the post of British Consul-General in Stuttgart, we would like to comment on the recent disclosure that the Foreign Office is to shut down the Consulate-General there.

What relevance has the maintenance of such a post? Both of us have served in the United States and are familiar with the arguments so strongly put forward in favour of the creation of numerous consulates all over America at a time when the "special relationship" was such a basic feature of our foreign policy and when the earning of dollars was the standard by which British exporters (and British consuls) were to be judged.

In the present context of Britain's

in-Europe, it might surely seem desirable at least to maintain our well-established links with such a significant part of Germany as Baden-Württemberg. By severing them, do we not show ourselves as turning our backs on Europe, an accusation only too readily made against us? Considered merely in economic terms, the increasing accumulation of sophisticated German industry and correspondingly of purchasing power in the Stuttgart area (Mercedes and Bosch are household names in this country, are they not?) would appear to justify reconsideration.

Looking at the matter politically, the moderation and common sense of the great Land of Baden-Württemberg has again and again provided a most valuable influence on the historical development of the Federal Republic.

And if one looks at the cultural side, "educational" it tended to be called in the time of the pioneering British reconstruction services in immediate post-war Germany, the two signatories were jointly responsible for the organisation in Stuttgart of the first "British Week" ever to be held in a foreign city, a successful manifestation of which the effects in the fields of opera and music and theatre still continue to be felt.

We trust that the reported Foreign Office decision is not final or irreversible.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON WHITTERIDGE,

ANDREW GILCHRIST,

Stonbank,

Brighton Lane,

The Sands,

Farnham,

Surrey,

September 5.

Long shadow of the Stamp Act

From the Headmaster of Chilton College

Sir, All who are in the business of buying, publishing or writing books will be grateful to Mr Woodrow Wyatt for his "Don't tax learning. Mr Lawson" (feature, September 8). Mr Wyatt is right to call the Chancellor's rumoured proposal to impose VAT on books and newspapers "a tax on knowledge".

Having fought off a threat from the left to levy VAT on school fees, heads of schools will be dismayed to find the taxation of knowledge advancing on us in a new form from the right. The last thing schools, colleges and universities need at the moment (whether they are independent or maintained) is any further hindrance to the reading and purchase of books, in what is necessarily an increasingly electronic age.

The example of other EEC countries is not persuasive, and the very variety of European tax rates on printed material is perhaps a measure of guilty consciences.

The Stamp Tax on newspapers and legal documents, which in 1765 was extended from Britain to the American colonies, was stoutly resisted as a tax on knowledge in a society which was as devoted to learning as it was to litigation, and which regarded untrammelled reading as the best guarantee of an independent mind. It was the tax on newspapers, not the duty on tea, which kindled colonial disaffection.

One must not push analogies too far, but one is entitled to hope that today's Chancellor will not make the same miscalculation as his Hanoverian predecessor.

Yours faithfully,

STUART ANDREWS,

Headmaster,

Chilton College,

Bristol.

Avon.

Minus factor

From Mr Bamber Gascoigne

Sir, Paul Routledge writes today (September 14) on the miners' strike: "The union is arguing that the toll of lost output during the 27-week strike means that no pit should close for the next five years."

It surprises me how often this preposterous argument of Scargill's has been reported in the press and on television without further comment to expose its *Allice in Wonderland* logic. Scargill seems to be saying that because strike has lost millions of tonnes of profit-making coal we must commit ourselves to mining the same quantity of loss-making coal.

In mining as well as mathematics two minuses are to make a plus!

Yours sincerely,

BAMBER GASCOIGNE,

1 Saint Helena Terrace,

Richmond,

Surrey,

September 14.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 16: Divine Service was held in Cranleigh Parish Church this morning.

The Reverend Henry Sefton preached the sermon on the text: "The Queen was represented by Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy (Air Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty) at the Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service which was held in Westminster Abbey this morning."

The Prince of Wales was represented by Group Captain Michael Gibson.

CLARENCE HOUSE
September 15: Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Lady Jean Rankin as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 15: The Princess of Wales was safely delivered of a son at 4.30 pm today.

Her Royal Highness and her child are both well.

Signed: John Batten, George Pinner, Clive Roberts, David Harvey, Michael Linnert, Gerald A. Lloyd.

September 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as President of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at a Reception held by the Society at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

Her Royal Highness later attended a Concert held by the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra in aid of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, at Kelvin Hall.

Lady Arundell and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. R. Balderston and Miss V. J. Bayliss

The engagement is announced between Mr. Balderston, of Loughlin, Milton Keynes, and Virginia, youngest daughter of Sir Richard Bayliss, of London, and Lady (Constance) Bayliss, of Loughlin, Milton Keynes.

Mr J. R. Brown and Miss V. R. Reynolds

The engagement is announced between Mr. Brown, of Dymchurch, Somerset, Oxfordshire, and Virginia, youngest daughter of Mrs Laurette Reynolds and the late Beresford Reynolds, of Moorlands, Rosalee Plains, Queensland, Australia.

Mr R. C. S. Bryant and Miss J. V. Versteeg

The engagement is announced between Mr. Bryant, of Dymchurch, Somerset, Oxfordshire, and Jane, daughter of Mijneer Gerrit and Dr Lillian Versteeg, of Aldwick, York.

Mr S. J. D. Hamilton and Miss K. M. Willis

The engagement is announced between Mr. Hamilton, of Dymchurch, Somerset, Oxfordshire, and Kim, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Willis, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Mr S. M. C. Hutton and Miss P. A. Stokell

The engagement is announced between Mr. Hutton, of Dymchurch, Somerset, Oxfordshire, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. O. Stokell, of Gushborough, Cleveland.

Mr J. J. Marsh and Miss J. E. Watbury

The engagement is announced between Mr. Marsh, of Dymchurch, Somerset, Oxfordshire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. C. Asbury, of Beckenham, Kent, formerly of Stanley, Hong Kong.

Mr C. W. Noel and Miss D. de Freitas

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Cupitt wins, with his own rules

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Rev Don Cupitt makes the Bishop of Durham look like Cardinal Ratzinger. Indeed, the Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, would put the damning label "conservative" equally on the Right Rev David Jenkins and on the Prefect of the Vatican's Sacred Congregation simply for believing in any sense at all that Jesus Christ was God incarnate.

Mr Cupitt's enormous gifts of communication are now on display again in BBC Television's series, *Sea of Faith*, which is designed to show that his reduction of the Christian religion to its inevitable core, far more literally than Luther ever did. It is not faith in anything, just a choice to try to be a certain kind of person, which he aptly calls a kind of Buddhism.

Such a man inevitably attracts spiritual wars, and quite a few members of his own Anglican Church would relish his being defrocked, and even more if it could be preceded by a show trial for heresy. Mrs Mary Whitehouse wanted the present television series banned. This correspondent's judgment that Mr Cupitt is an atheist is frequently cited by his enemies.

But he is an interesting atheist, saying something worth hearing about religion, deserving to be wrestled with, not dismissed and removed from sight. The act of faith he has made is to be no less than a follower of Jesus, and to draw attention back to that man's teaching. There is nobility in this, as there is honour in his refusal to bribe himself (as he would say) with promises of

eternal happiness, or comfort and consolation now. The claim that the journey begun by Luther ends here is a serious one. Mr Cupitt may be the only liberal Protestant theologian with the courage and honesty to push the argument to its logical conclusion. It is not surprising he makes some of them uncomfortable too. In a theological world pushed to logical conclusions there may be only three sustainable positions: Biblical fundamentalism, strict adherence to the Roman Catholic magisterium, or Cupittism: which may be why most people prefer to be a little illogical.

In his diverse writings and broadcasts, Mr Cupitt makes out a coherent attack on "superstition" — all religious belief in any kind of reality beyond this world — which more traditional forms of Christianity have been slow to answer. But there are spontaneous outbreaks all over the theological and philosophical world of a kind of thinking which is a match for his.

He is a child of the Enlightenment of the line from Descartes to Wittgenstein via Kant and Kierkegaard; and elsewhere Enlightenment scepticism is being turned on the Enlightenment itself. The fashionable question is becoming: Did the Enlightenment lead towards the truth, or away from it? And did Christianity's attempt to accommodate the Enlightenment in fact plant mines in its foundations? If so, all Mr Cupitt has done is to light the blue touch-paper.

Those who got out in time have gone away to refound metaphysics and rescue dogma



The Rev Don Cupitt: Faith as a choice in life.

from the dog-house, sending Kantianism and Cartesianism into exile instead. In short, they are saying that Christianity rests upon truths which are unprovable and exempt from rational analysis, and they are saying that science and philosophy rest likewise, despite common assumptions to the contrary.

That theological neoclassicism seems to be taking over from reductionist liberalism as the trend of the future. Its relevance to Mr Cupitt's position is that it implicitly supposes him in his claim to have taken the earlier trend to its ultimate disappearing point. For it in effect admits that he cannot be defeated on his own ground: Within the rules of the game he is playing, he must win; but are the rules the right ones?

The real battleground is far away from the television cam-

eras, in the highly abstract world of the philosophy of religion. Every form of faith, from popular folk-religion to ordinary Anglicanism to Vatican Catholicism, is seen to rest on methods of thinking which are not part of the religion itself, which are quite often taken for granted as obvious but which are in fact more or less arbitrary, and which necessarily impose a bias on the meaning given to religious ideas.

That the critics would say, is no less true of Cupittism as of any other approach to Christianity. He has an Enlightenment bias: Traditional Roman Catholicism, for example, has a bias from the philosophical system called scholasticism, which is a gradually losing English folk religion rests on a sort of romanticism. The Vatican has recently protested that Catholicism cannot be rested on a philosophical basis of Marxism, due to a fundamental incompatibility. And so on.

The creative way forward is to recognize that philosophy has a servant role in religion, and hence can never be used to prove or disprove the central points of faith; and to look for and allow for the inevitable bias that philosophy imparts, as far as that is possible.

On the whole, the mainstream churches in Britain have been so careless of philosophical traps in the past that it will not be easy to dig themselves out. Perhaps Mr Cupitt's sharp barbs — "There must be no more pixie-dust" — will focus their minds on the issue.

OBITUARY

DR CHARLES LYNCH Leading Irish pianist

Dr Charles Lynch who died in Cork on September 15 aged 78, had been Ireland's most distinguished concert pianist over the past 40 years, frequently entrusted with important premieres, and was a major force in the founding of the Radio Eireann Symphony Orchestra.

He was a child prodigy who gave his first public performance at the age of eight, but his gifts were only brought before the public in this country, when he performed Rachmaninov's Piano Sonata in D Minor in 1936.

This was in fact the first performance in Britain of the work which was undertaken at the request of the composer who had been bitterly disappointed when the reception it had received when he himself had given the world premiere performance in America some 20 years earlier.

The successful performance of the work at the Sheffield Festival led to Lynch's receiving special tuition from Rachmaninov.

nov. Lynch also gave other first performances in Britain of works by Stravinsky and Ernest Bloch. Apart from the normal round of concerts and recitals he was closely associated with Sir Thomas Beecham in the preparation of the Delius Festival which the latter organized in 1929 and with the 1937 Coronation year season at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He was also associated with Dame Marie Rambert in the foundation of Ballet Rambert.

From 1933 to 1940 Lynch made frequent broadcasts on the BBC World Service and was a regular performer at the Wigmore Hall, London where he was also noted for essaying a number of new works. On his return to Ireland in 1940 he was instrumental in founding the Radio Eireann Symphony Orchestra and established himself as the foremost Irish concert pianist.

He was made a Doctor of Music by the National University of Ireland in 1982.

MR DESMOND HILL

Mr Desmond Hill, OBE, who died at his home in Oxfordshire on September 13 at the age of 64 was a well known figure in the rowing world as an organizer, coach, official and writer. In particular he had made a considerable contribution to schools' rowing through his instigating the regatta which eventually became the National Schools Regatta, and he will be widely remembered as rowing and point-to-point correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* for over 20 years.

Born in 1920, Hill was educated at Radley College, in whose eight he rowed in the Ladies Plate at Henley in 1939, and New College, Oxford. The war deprived him of a chance of winning a Blue for although he rowed in the Oxford crew against Cambridge in the unofficial Boat Race of 1940, no Blues were awarded for the wartime Boat Races.

After service with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in Burma, he was demobilized in the rank of Major, and became a master at St Edward's School. He later became master in charge of rowing.

In 1960 he took a year's sabbatical leave to write the St Edward's School history, during which period a vacancy occurred at *The Daily Telegraph*.

Hill coached New College on many occasions, and the Oxford University crews of 1952 and 1953. He held an international umpire's licence, and besides officiating at many European and later World Championship regattas, he was always ready to help out at domestic events.

His other great interest was in racing and he was a regular commentator at point-to-points. As a journalist, he did not shrink from criticism but tempered it with mercy. He was wonderfully supported in the period of ill health which overtook him in the year before his death by his second wife, Sue, who survives him, as do his two children by a previous marriage.

VICE-ADMIRAL GLENN DAVIS

Vice-Admiral Glenn D. Davis, who died in Hilton Head, South Carolina on September 8 at the age of 92 was one of the notable American battleship commanders of the Pacific operations in World War II and distinguished himself during the decisive second naval battle of Guadalcanal on November 14-15, 1942.

As a Captain Davis had been appointed to the command of the newly completed battleship USS Washington in July 1942 and his command joined Admiral Lee's Task Force 64 for operations off Guadalcanal where American and Japanese ground forces were locked in an epic and interminable struggle. The aim of the American naval forces was to prevent the Japanese reinforcement of their troops by sea, an operation inspired by the resolution and skill of Admiral Tanaka.

In what is known as the first Battle of Guadalcanal on the previous day, November 13, the American naval units had failed, largely through poor communications and use of radar to inflict heavy damage on Admiral Tanaka's fleet.

Later in the war, he commanded Battleship Division Eight, participating in major naval assaults such as those on Saipan and Guam, and being further decorated, with the Legion of Merit. He retired from the US Navy in 1953.

MR ANDREW ROBB

Mr Andrew Robb, who died on September 11 in London at the age of 80, was a well-known fashion artist whose work appeared in several publications, among them the *Sunday* and *Daily Express*. He had an eye for detail and an ability to translate that onto paper which made his name at a time when eyes were on the Paris fashions, and whether Dior was raising or lowering his hems.

He came from Leith, in Scotland, and began drawing fashions in the mid-1930s. He drew for *Vogue*, *Woman's Journal* and *Woman's Illustration* before becoming established at the *Express*.

In the post-war years he was one of those who conveyed the new styles appearing after the drab, austerity days of the Second World War. His drawings came to be used in national advertising campaigns, and his friendship with the Queen's dressmaker, Norman Hartnell, helped him to a number of exclusives.

His drawing of the then Princess Elizabeth's wedding dress and the later one of the Queen's Coronation dress were printed in newspapers and magazines round the world.

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Give to those who gave — please

BLESMA BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Birthdays today



Sir Frederick Ashted, OM, CH, who is 80 today, holding a birthday card from the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet company when he joined dancers on stage before a performance of his *La Fille Mal Gardée* at Cambridge on Saturday.

Other birthdays:

Professor E. D. Asheson, 56; Sir Cyril Marsh, 57; Sir David Craig, 58; General Sir Kenneth Darling, 75; Miss Jennifer Dickson, 48; Professor Sir John Hale, 61; Sir Desmond Hean, 77; Sir Frisdon Hunt, 67; Mr Stirling Moss, 55; Miss Mary Stewart, 84; Professor W. McC. Stewart, 84; Dr Elizabeth Wilkinson, 75; Sir Isaac Wolfson, 87.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Lord Tunstall to be president of the British Heart Foundation in succession to Viscount De L'Isle, VC.

Mr Gareth Murrell, a member of the music staff of the Royal Opera House, to be the conductor of the BBC Symphony Chorus from September 21 in succession to Mr Brian Wright.

Marriages

Sir Richard Dashwood, Bt, and Miss K. A. Mahon

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, of Sir Richard Dashwood, Bt, son of the late Sir Henry Dashwood, Bt, and of Lady Dashwood, of Ledwell Cottage, Sandford, St Martin, Oxfordshire, and Miss Kathryn Ann Mahon, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Mahon, of Barrocks Farm, Ladbroke, Newbury, Berkshire. The Rev D. Wilcox officiated, assisted by Father M. Mahon.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Henry and George Crofton, Alastair Colquhoun, Sarah Henderson, Sophie Evans, Joanna Mann, and Miss Jane Mahon. Mr John Symons was best man.

A reception was held at Kirtlington Park, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr C. Russell and the Hon Victoria Seels

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, between Mr Christopher Russell, son of the late Mr John Russell and of Lady Whitley, and stepson of Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, of Lynton, Hampshire, and the Hon Victoria Seels, younger daughter of Lord and Lady Molesworth, of Molesworth, Isle of Wight. The Rev Arthur Brown officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Zoe and Kirsty Phipps, and Kate and Alexia Russell. Mr Jonathan Seymour-Williams was best man.

A reception was held at Brewin's Hall and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P. F. H. Sarell and Miss J. A. Petherick

The marriage took place on Saturday at St James's, Piccadilly, of Mr Philip Sarell, eldest son of Sir

Roderick and Lady Sarell, of Hampstead, Norfolk, and the daughter of Mr and Mrs D. B. Petherick, of Womersley, Surrey. The Rev Martin Loveless officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Charles Seale and Victoria Young. Mr Kjell Hauge was best man.

A reception was held in College Garden, Westminster Abbey, and the honeymoon will be spent in Kenya.

Mr D. A. J. Baldry and Miss J. M. King

The marriage took place on Saturday at Bray of Mr David Andrew James Baldry, only son of the late Mr Ronald Baldry, of Mrs Baldry, of Bassett, Southampton, and Miss Jane Mary King, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Edwin King, of Holyport, Berkshire. The Rev Neil Howells officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Kate James and Miss Pauline Young. Dr Nichol Clarke was best man.

A reception was held at the Monks Island Hotel, Bray, and the honeymoon is being spent in Kenya.

Mr C. J. Serjeant and Miss S. S. Reeves

The marriage took place on September 8 between Mr Christopher Serjeant, son of Mr and Mrs A. E. Serjeant, of Singapore, and Miss Sarah Jane Reeves, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. F. Reeves, of Crofton.

Mr P. B. Shone and Mrs S. J. Scott-Dalglish

The marriage took place at Petersfield on Saturday, September 15, between Mr Peter Shone, of 59 Princes Road, Richmond, Surrey, and Mrs Susan Scott-Dalglish, of Boling Hall Farm, Burton, Petersfield, Hampshire.

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Conferences and exhibitions

Spending on business tourism in Britain last year was £1,250m, mostly on conventions and shows. But new patterns of demand are emerging, creating needs for new centres and changes to the existing halls.

Conferences and exhibitions, shuffling off most of the effects of recession, are a growth business in Britain whether judged by the amount of custom attracted or the extent of investment which is going into new or extended centres.

The state of new conference centres and exhibition halls shows no sign of abating - in England alone there are around 20 centres planned or under construction despite the fact that number of new openings since 1975 - and this has prompted questions about over-supply.

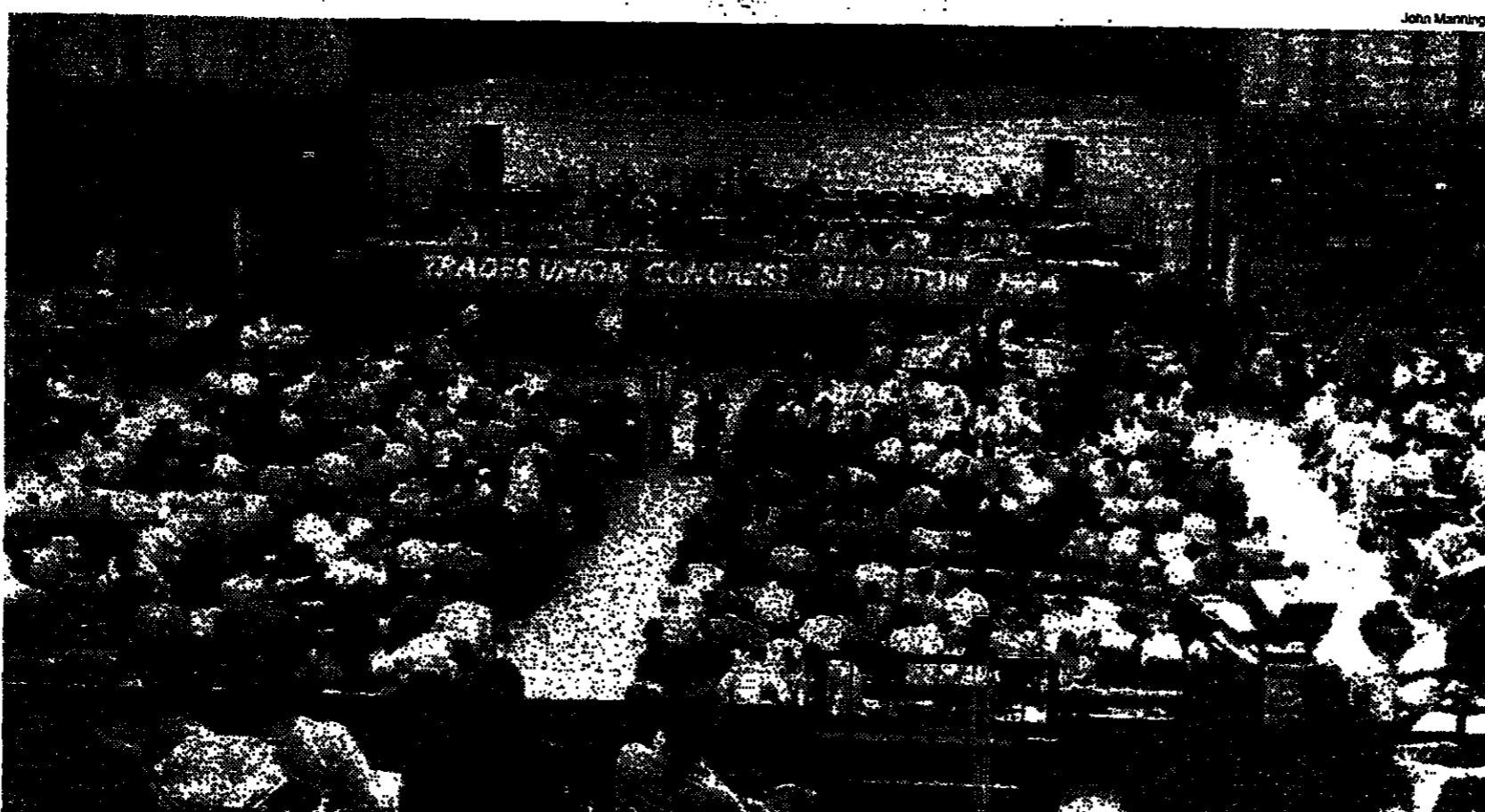
That is not a matter of simple arithmetic because the nature of the business is changing so fast, creating needs which not every conference or exhibition centre easily meets.

In the convention business the latest technology can be formidable. At Anugraha - it means an unexpected kind of place - opened in May on the edge of Windsor Great Park after the interior gutting of an old country house, there are talk-back systems, immediate on-screen interface between delegates and speakers, large screen front and rear projection, audio and video recording facilities, closed circuit television for all meetings, computer services and a satellite link-up for world-wide teleconferences. Teleconferences offer instantaneous picture as well as sound link-ups.

For launches of new products such as a car range it is not uncommon for a series of dealer presentations to cost around £1m, involving spectacular audio-visual effects and the razzmatazz of songs and high-kicking chorus girls that have earned the description of industrial theatre.

Stage-managing of conferences and conventions, including the grooming of company executives to cope with the demand of presentations calculated for the maximum impact, has spawned a new breed of marketing consultants.

Spectrum Communications, based in London, is one of them whose turnover for some years has increased by a half annually, casing in the current year to a



The miners' strike was the key issue at this year's Trades Union Congress held at Brighton. For some years the town has shared the big political conferences with Blackpool, but now Bournemouth is challenging hard for this business.

quarter. Paul Swann, its managing director, said: "There are perhaps only 50 top companies now taking this route to explaining themselves to their salesmen or other employees so the growth prospects are enormous. One company found it so valuable its hitherto annual meeting is now held twice a year."

He added: "There is no over-supply of the right places with the facilities to meet today's needs. It is simply that the old municipal hall is dying a death. In terms of up-to-date facilities Britain is a long way from over-supply."

A similar point is made about exhibition facilities by Christopher Stewart-Smith, chairman of Earls Court and Olympia which this summer opened its new Olympia 2 hall. He said: "The small to medium-sized exhibition hall, including all the modern concepts, is the growth part of the market now. This is because exhibitions are becoming more specialised."

What is emerging from these new patterns of demand is that there is room for more conference and exhibition centres provided they are in the right

locations, with the complement of the fullest range of facilities and backed up by sufficient hotel accommodation of the right variety.

It was Michael Montague, now about to bow out as chairman of the English Tourist Board, who earlier warned that there was more to staging major conferences and exhibitions than simply putting up new halls as civic virility symbols.

The ETB has been sufficiently concerned about the danger of some new schemes becoming white elephants that it has commissioned a new study from Peat Marwick Mitchell, the consultants, on the prospects for the conference and exhibition business between now and the end of the century. It will look at the likely growth of international and domestic business and what sort of facilities and where are most likely to succeed.

For centres that match current needs the auguries are good. Spending on business tourism in Britain, essentially consisting of the conference and exhibition business, was £1,250m last year, up by a quarter compared with the

previous year. Business tourism accounted for 65m individual overnight stays in 1983, a 3 per cent rise on 1982. The average daily spending per head at conferences, which stood at £20 in 1982, rose to £26 last year.

The state of new conference and exhibition halls seen in the past five or six years have joined with others, extensively

The small to medium sized exhibition hall including all the modern concepts, is the growth part of the market now as exhibitions become more specialised

refurbished, in competing for this growing business. It is a battle for prestige both at the domestic and international levels.

In England the ETB, in its annual survey, last year identified 20 major conference and exhibition facilities planned, with six under construction and half scheduled to open by the end of next year. Six major conference centres had opened in the previous 12 months at Blackpool the new Pembroke

Hotel and the refurbished Winter Gardens, with Nottingham's Royal Centre, the Embassy Centre, Skegness, and the International Maritime Organization's headquarters in London. It brought the total of conference centres opened since 1975 to 24.

Since the last ETB survey there have been several exhibition expansions and, as well as the Anugraha Convention Centre opening, the Bournemouth International Centre, to be known as BIC, was inaugurated earlier this month.

Among new conference centre plans announced since the survey are the Felixstowe conference and leisure centre, due to open by 1986, and the government conference centre at Broad Sanctuary near the Central Hall just off Parliament Square in London.

The new generation of convention halls, with their capacity of 4,000 or more, are dramatically widening the choice for the big conferences such as those of the political parties and the TUC. The BIC has brought to Bournemouth this year the Liberal Party conference. Next year comes the

Labour Party, in 1986 the Tories and in 1987 the TUC.

BIC's main hall can seat 4,000 and there is additional capacity for 1,220 in a second hall. It cost the Bournemouth local authority £17m to build.

Its general manager Luis Candal is looking for a bonus of international business as well as being able to compete strongly for the big national meetings within Britain. On this domestic business battleground Bournemouth, with its wide range of hotels, will be substantial competition for Brighton, with its Brighton Centre of 5,000 seating capacity, long the home of the big political conferences which in the past were held only there or in Blackpool.

Birmingham City Council's ambitious scheme for a £136m convention centre near the city centre, originally targeted to be open during 1989 after starting work on site next year, has been put back a year. It includes a £40m hotel development and among numerous halls planned one would take 5,000 delegates.

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Major conference centres completed in England since 1975

Location	Capacity of largest hall	Year opened
Newcastle Centre Hotel	600	1976
Albany Hotel, Birmingham	630	1976
Birmingham Metropole, NEC	1,800	1976
Wembley Conference Centre	2,700	1976
The Drill Hall, Lincoln (refurbishing)	800	1976
The Brighton Centre	5,000	1977
Summerland Leisure Centre, Douglas, Isle of Man	1,500	1978
Effingham Park International Conference Centre, Copthorne, Sussex	1,000	1978
The Rainbow Suite and Kensington Exhibition Centre, London	1,000	1980
Bognor Regis Centre	550	1980
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham	11,000	1980
Spa Hall, Scarborough (refurbishment)	1,975	1981
Marina Centre, Great Yarmouth	1,000	1981
Alexandra Pavilion, Wood Green, London	4,000	1981
The Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone	700	1981
Barbican Conference Centre, London	2,025	1982
Harrogate International Conference and Exhibition Centre	2,000	1982
Theatre Royal, Plymouth	1,296	1982
International Maritime Organization Headquarters, London	650	1982
The Pembroke Hotel, Blackpool	650	1982
Royal Centre, Nottingham	2,500	1982
Embassy Centre, Skegness	1,200	1983
Solihull Conference and Banqueting Centre (refurbishment)	900	1983
Winter Gardens, Blackpool and Exhibition Centre (refurbishment)	500	1983

Source: English Tourist Board

Top of the league

If all goes well, London should consolidate its position at the top of the league table of international conference venues next year when it hosts the American Bar Association. With 18,000 participants expected, the ABA is the biggest event of its kind in the world. Accommodating such a large event should enable London promoters to stifle one of the international conference organizers' main complaints about the City which, apart from its high prices, is that it lacks a large conference stadium.

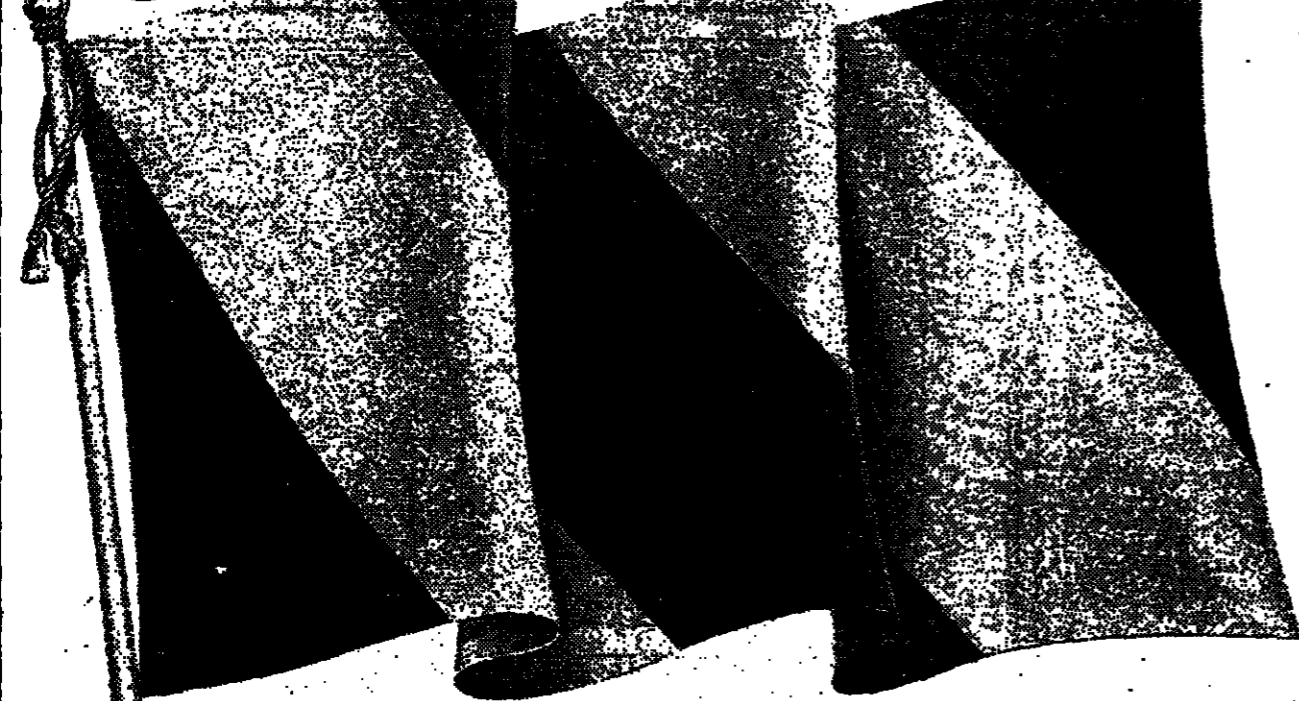
In fact, more by luck than good planning, London appears to have leapfrogged an evolutionary stage in conference venue development. The modern tendency for big conferences, including the ABA, is to split into much smaller, more specialist groups, with a consequent demand for seminar rooms rather than cavernous halls. London has many existing buildings suitable for gatherings of fewer than 2,000.

The flagship is the £100m Barbican Centre opened by the Queen in 1982. Though its main hall can seat only 2,000 people the centre was welcomed by conference organizers as for the psychological boost as far as modern equipment and central location. London's only other large purpose-built conference centre, opened at Wembley in 1977, also has a maximum capacity of fewer than 3,000 in one hall.

However, new conference venues are emerging. An example is the as-yet unnamed UK Government Conference Centre overlooking the Houses of Parliament in Broad Sanctuary, Westminster. Due to be completed by summer 1986 this is causing particular excitement in conference circles because of the flexibility it offers in accommodating up to 2,000 people in four conference rooms. Until a few months ago it was thought that use of the

Continued on page 17

NEC SETTING THE STANDARDS



The NEC has to be one of the most popular, best-equipped and most easily accessible commercial venues in Europe, if not the world.

And that's no idle boast, as you'll see when you take a look at our track record over the past year.

International Exhibitions

Of these plus trade and public exhibitions staged every year, the 3 major European trade fairs we are hosting this Autumn perhaps serve best to highlight our international appeal. The International Printing Machinery Exhibition (IPEX) featured 1,200 exhibiting companies; the International Motor Show will occupy all of our 8-hall, 100,000 sq. metre complex, and we'll also be the venue for the massive International Construction Equipment Exhibition in November.

A convention breakthrough for Rotary

This June the Rotary International convention was staged at the NEC and attracted 23,500 delegates from 105 countries, making it the largest ever held in the Western hemisphere.

The public Shows that mean big business

In 65 concert nights, a total of 670,000 people came to the NEC's arena to see a host of spectacular shows. Events ranged from rock concerts to the Royal International Horse Show. And next year promises to be even better, beginning with the televised World Young Masters Tennis Tournament in January.

With our launches, products are certain to take off

In 1984, many household names like Ford, Fiat, Bird's Eye and Rank Xerox chose the NEC to launch their mass market products.

These and a whole range of other exhibitions and events were organised in conjunction with our own team of expert show-staging professionals, the NEC Exhibitions and Events Division.

So, whether you're charged with looking after exhibitions, conferences, conventions, or any kind of event for your organisation, come to the centre that sets the standards. Come to the NEC.



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You'll want to come back-and here's the award to prove it.

The Heathrow Penta Hotel has just been voted 'Best Conference Hotel' by readers of *Executive Travel* magazine and clients of *Expotel*. Reporting on the 'Hotel of the Year Awards 1984', *Executive Travel* described the Penta as "...a fine example of imaginative use of high technology and design in the conference area, particularly with its AV theatre, which may represent the state-of-the-art in world terms."

But it isn't just our conference facilities that make the Heathrow Penta an outstanding hotel.

There's our award-winning restaurant and 24-hour coffee shop. Our swimming pool and health club.

And our exclusive bedrooms designed especially with the business traveller in mind.

In fact, it all adds up to something we've known for quite some time.

That once you visit the Heathrow Penta you can be certain you'll want to come back.



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CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

A phenomenal growth in computer exhibitions

The costs of 'putting on a show'

A period of change for exhibitions is coinciding with a big increase in business spending on this form of promotion. Preliminary estimates by the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA) show a 16 per cent rise in United Kingdom Company spending on trade, technical and consumer exhibitions last year compared with 1982 and there was a much steeper increase in spending by companies on their own individual events.

The break-up of traditional exhibitions into smaller specialised ones - seen notably in the electrical sector under the impact of changes in electronics

- is one trend which has been emerging. It is putting more of a premium on medium-sized and smaller exhibition halls rather than the giants.

In the electronics sector - after the 18 exhibitions mounted in 1982 - last year the number jumped by almost two thirds to 29. Last year's 35 exhibitions in the office machinery and computers sector was more than double the number of public exhibitions compared with 1982.

Only exhibitions covering home-based interests, of which the Ideal Home Exhibition is the prime example, outnumbered - and then only by one -

this phenomenal growth in exhibitions of computers and allied developments for the office.

Costings have become increasingly crucial. This was demonstrated in 1981 when exhibition rates accelerated beyond many other forms of advertising expenditure and led to fears of poor trading. The following year exhibition costings were held down and spending on trade, technical and consumer exhibitions rose 14 per cent to £132m.

Last year there was a further rise to £153m, according to ISBA's preliminary estimates. Spending on agricultural shows increased £11 per cent to £59m.

The biggest increase was in spending by companies on their own individually arranged exhibi-

tion. Some exhibition centres are now offering erection of modular stands as part of their rental deals.

Modular systems mean swifter erection and dismantling of stands, saving at least one day out of probably eight which otherwise might be needed to mount a four-day exhibition.

The growing tendency of exhibition organizers to seek out higher quality facilities and venues is resulting in even the big exhibition centres with modern facilities, such as the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham, being in demand for comparatively small exhibitions as well as the giants like the Motor Show.

This helps explain why, when the growth in exhibitions is more among the small to medium sized shows, the giant halls still prosper. In 1982 Earls Court and Olympia accounted for 30 per cent of all exhibition spending and Birmingham's NEC 27 per cent. Initial ISBA estimates indicate little change in these market shares during last year.

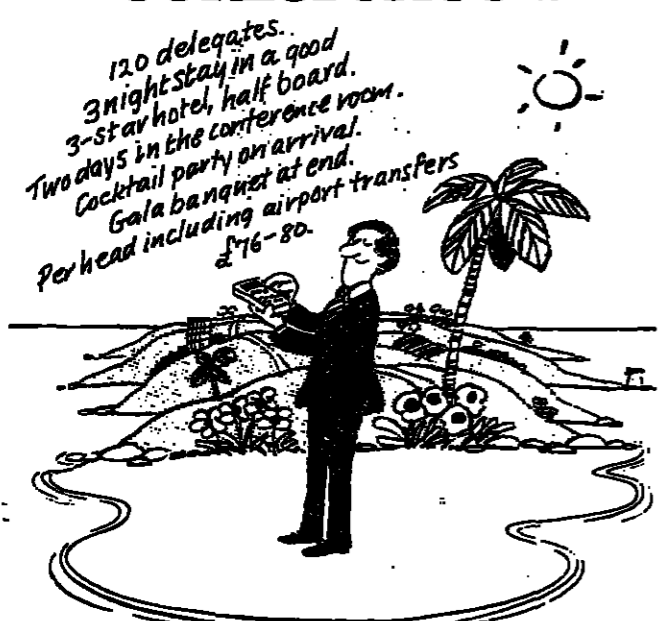
Christopher Stewart-Smith, chairman of Earls Court and Olympia, said occupancy rates were going up steadily this year, partly due to an expansion in the total market. But the new Olympia 2, just opened and aimed at the medium-sized and smaller exhibitions, is doing particularly well. Its first booking, the Acorn User Exhibition showing off computer wares, saw 24,000 people through the doors in four days.

He believes the projected openings of new exhibition centres outside London, notably the Manchester Central Station



Olympia 2 opened last month with the Acorn User Exhibition which attracted 24,000 visitors in four days.

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A crucial element in keeping down stand construction cost is the growing use of modular exhibition stands

bitions, including in store and mobile exhibitions as well as meetings and shows staged in hotels. Reported spending last year was £95m, ostensibly a 37 per cent rise compared with 1982 but there appears to be an element of more companies reporting on their spending last year than did for 1982 expenditure.

A crucial element in keeping down stand construction costs is the growing use of modular exhibition stands. Instead of companies renting an exhibition space and then building their own stands, prefabricated panels and mountings are

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CONFERENCE CENTRE

Shall we invite the wives? Spouses have always played an important part at political functions and at the annual meetings held by trade associations. There now appears to be a growing trend for individual companies to encourage delegates to bring their wives or husbands along to new product launches and sales conferences.

What conference organizers find most remarkable about the present trend, however, is that increasing numbers of wives are choosing to attend business sessions at conferences rather than going shopping.

Austin Rover first started inviting spouses to attend new product launches in 1980 when the Metro was unveiled. It then discovered that wives were opting out of the social programme which had been arranged for them in order to learn about the new car.

When the Maestro was launched last year, the proportion of dealers' wives in the audience had risen to nearly 70 per cent. "We were a little surprised at first," says Ken Clayton who organized the events. "Then we realized even though our launch conferences are packed full of solid fact, they are also entertaining and far from being dry and boring affairs".

In fact, the host of new audio visual techniques now enlisted in presenting business information can make a modern sales conference seem more like a variety show than the academic-type lectures of yesteryear.

The aim, just as in advertising, is to persuade and impress

the audience as well as to convey information. In any event business delegates, such as the Austin Rover dealers who have paid a fee as well as sacrificing time in order to attend, are much less tolerant than university students and would rapidly walk out if the information was not comprehensible.

A sizeable and growing sub-industry has grown up in the last decade or so to supply professional conference presentation services as well as equipment. One of the oldest of 100 or more such specialist organizations is MMA Presentations. Having started from a single converted warehouse in 1971, this company now occupies most of a street in Covent Garden, has a staff of over 40 specialists and a client list which reads like a Times 1000 list of the biggest multinationals.

Another is Spectrum Communications which started with three people in 1976; now has 67 full-time employees, a turnover of £2.7m and is contemplating a listing on the Stock Exchange.

Companies which pay large fees for lavish and expensive presentations do so because they believe the cost is justified by the results. One of the advantages is that in addition to having substantial immediate impact they can be subsequently converted into a travelling road show. Mr David Seeking, an independent conference consult-

Bring on the wives

ant, cites the example of a large printing company which spent about £60,000 on a five-stop tour of Britain to launch a new range of offset litho printing machines in his book *How to Organize Effective Conferences and Meetings*. Its return came in the form of nearly £1m worth of orders before any other promotion was carried out.

The underlying message which the specialist companies preach to any conference customer, whether or not a stickily presented spectacular is involved, is one of meticulous preparation and rehearsal before the event.

The main tip the specialists offer to any conference speaker is first to ensure that the content

of what they want to say is relevant to the particular audience. The secret then is simply to draft, script and finally to rehearse if at all possible in the hall where the presentation is to be delivered with colleagues positioned in the back row to check audibility and, in the case of visual aids, legibility.

The presence, or otherwise of spouses who are not obliged to attend, is probably as good a yardstick of effectiveness as any.

DH

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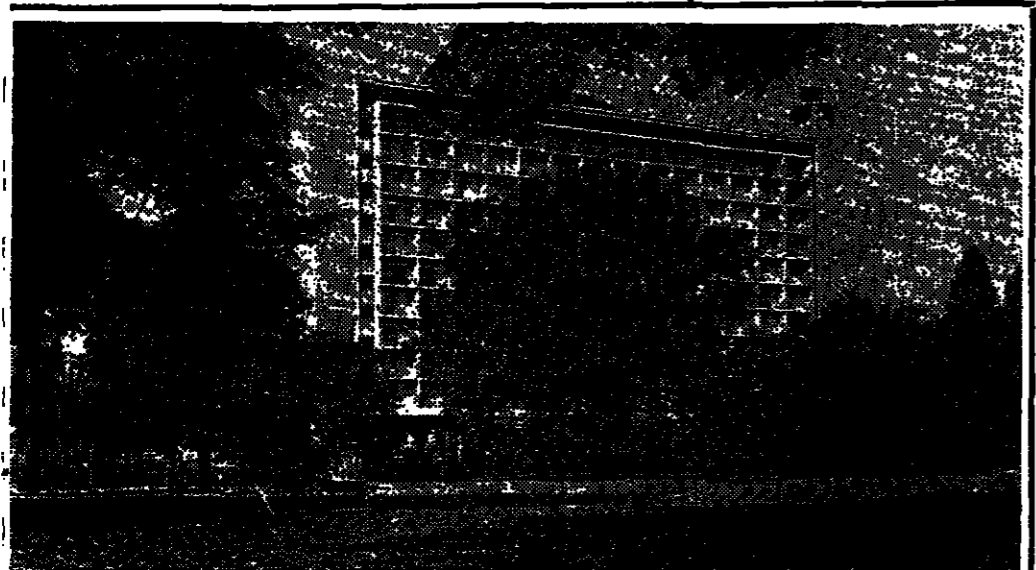
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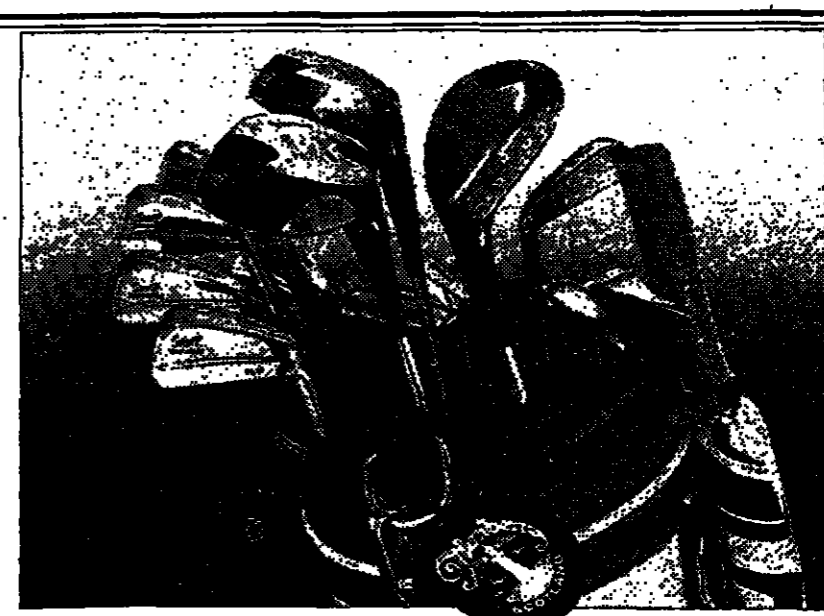
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The universities cash in

Universities which are now vigorously marketing their out-of-term facilities to commercial organizers are a comparatively new development on the conference scene. Advertisements by the universities of Leeds, Birmingham and the City of London, together with a "venue-marketing" conference run by the University of Surrey earlier this year, are examples of a general drive by academic establishments of all types to promote their facilities.

The big advantage which universities have over most other kinds of non-traditional meeting areas is that they can provide residential and catering accommodation as well as secure "halls" at a low cost compared with hotels.

The University of Leeds, for instance, advertises daily charges of less than £20 a delegate and can accommodate more than 2,000 people. Other universities, such as Aberdeen

which offers 1,500 single rooms, and charges £14.50 a head (excluding VAT) for full board and including lecture facilities, are even cheaper. Though residential accommodation may be rather spartan - undergraduate amenities do not normally run to en-suite bathrooms for instance - the lecture facilities are often comfortable, with theatre-style seating and excellent audio-visual aids.

Universities provide a natural climate for professional societies and institutes, but business people can also relate to the academic environment. Some management delegates actively relish the absence of private telephone and Telex facilities at least for a day or two, and regard refectory-style din-

ing arrangements as an affectionate reminder of their youth. Academics not only welcome the additional revenue but are often also glad of the opportunity to mingle with industrialists.

New equipment for delegates

Remote locations as well as limited availability can be a disadvantage in using universities. A better solution, particularly if part of the aim is to demonstrate new equipment to large numbers of potential users, could be to take the conference to the delegate. The Department of Industry took to the rails to promote the application of microtechnology in industry in 1981. Using

British Rail's "Ambassador" exhibition train service, the department was able to bring consultations and seminars as well as exhibits from more than 100 different companies to 22 towns as part of its national awareness campaign.

British Telecom has been using the exhibition train service to help local telephone areas demonstrate the latest equipment to their immediate customers annually since 1977 - it finished its latest eight-week tour which took in over 35 locations in July. Other customers include Hornby Hobbies, which in 1982 earned over £1.3m worth of orders during a six-week tour covering 20 towns. IBM last year toured 20 locations, from Aberdeen to

Brighton, in five carriages specially decorated in 1930s Orient Express style.

Though not every delegate might agree about the advantages of captivity, the Olan Line shipping company undoubtedly makes a valid point in advertisements which state "Try walking away from one of our conferences". Some cruise operators find, as do some hoteliers, that sober suited business functions have a quelling effect on their main leisure clientele; others, like the Scandinavian Silja Line, have purpose built ships for conferences. The advantage to organizers of conferences abroad is that, like universities, cruise ships also offer accommodation but are considerably more luxurious.

Teleconferencing brings a touch of science fiction to meetings

Face to face by video

Fantasy from the realms of science fiction is fast becoming a fact of life as teleconferencing carves its place in the cut and thrust of international business.

Pioneering communication centres linking a car company's research engineering and manufacturing plants in Britain and West Germany have been in daily use since June for video conferences - live face-to-face meetings by television - eliminating travel costs and showing an important financial saving.

Encouraged by the early success of this trial, British Telecom International is confident that use of its new international videoconferencing facilities, principally connecting the UK with North America, will rocket now that the service can be offered at "attractive and competitive rates". Meanwhile, BTI's Conference Call Service, bringing together up to 20 people around the world by phone for audio conferences, is growing steadily as savings in time and travel costs are recognized.



Video conference at William and Glyn's bank: a video unit uses screens to link people inside and outside the meeting and shows documents simultaneously

Teleconferencing nevertheless is seen as an additional facility to broaden the scope of delegate attended conferences rather than a replacement. The new £10m Anúgraha conference

centre, 10 minutes from Heathrow and geared to the international market, is fully equipped for input by satellite and cable communication as an enhancement to conventional conferences.

The development of a compressed signal has made videoconferencing commercially viable. Using a relatively small amount of bandwidth compared with the costly wide analogue system, the new technique has dramatically reduced costs. Telecommunications experts in Europe have been working together over the past decade on research into an economical system. British Telecom was the first among them to produce a working video codec - a coder and decoder operating digitally - which is being manufactured by General Electric Company (GEC).

As well as its being able to compete with rising travel costs, the virtue of the system is that it does not need an Odeon to accommodate the terminal videoconferencing. Meetings can take place in the ambience of a normal conference room without the intrusion of a vast array of cameras, microphones and arc lights. This is important because people must not be hampered by the technology of a new medium. BT's research and development centre at Marlesham Heath, near Ips-

wich, has done extensive research into the human factor to make the video codec "user friendly".

Practising what it preaches in a full-free converted office at its London headquarters, BTI is learning a lot from seeing videoconferencing in action. Teleconference manager Peter Hooton, a 29-year-old hi-tech enthusiast with a degree in business studies, said: "It has given us information on people's attitudes and we are finding out what people want in their own businesses. Potential users of videoconferencing are international business people for whom travelling round the world is a chore rather than a perk."

"The chap who makes trips once or twice a year is still going to go abroad and come back with his duty free. International conferences will still be held but we can envisage them being run from two or three centres in different parts of the world with a videoconferencing link-up. Delegates would travel to the location nearest their own country."

Hire of a British Telecom public studio for the North American service costs £800 an hour, excluding VAT. A receiving charge is also made in the US or Canada. Teleconferencing is well established in North America with an ever growing number of conference links.

When the full complement of six aerials is installed at London Teleport in the East End's Dockland, British Telecom will be able to offer the City on-the-doorstep videoconferencing internationally.

An International Teleconference Symposium held in London, Sydney, Tokyo, Philadelphia and Toronto last April in front of large audiences was a shot in the arm for videoconferencing, said Peter Hooton, who used to work for Messy which has joined forces with Oceanic Communications to penetrate the "motion compression" market.

Mr Hooton said: "Seeing people you are speaking to without their being with you has been seen as science fiction but it is now fact. We have made that quantum leap to make videoconferencing a commercially viable service. It is bound to grow rapidly and there are bound to be other developments in the future that make it even more cost effective."

The international symposium brought business to Brighton based Conference Clearway which organized the London end. The company does not see videoconferencing as a threat to traditional conferences.

Ford motor engineers and executives in Dunton, near Basildon and Cologne discuss and examine drawings and prototype parts on an electronic blackboard in their daily exchanges. A company spokesman said: "The trial is turning out to be very successful and there is much enthusiasm for its potential use at conferences involving all employees. It is mesmerizing."

Irene Farnsworth

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Top of the league

Continued from page 15 new centre would be confined to government functions.

Another venue new to commercial organizers is the headquarters of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors overlooking Parliament Square. Recently refurbished at a cost of £2.3m, The Victoria exterior now conceals a brand new 116-seat council chamber and other meeting rooms on offer to outside bodies for the first time. This year too has seen the completion of a £1.1m extension and refurbishment programme behind the Georgian facade of the Watermen's & Lightermen's Livery Hall at St Mary-at-Hill in the City of London also being marketed to outside organizations for the first time. More than 20 other

ancient livery companies now allow their halls to be used by commercial companies.

New facilities stemming from private investment include the Limehouse television studios in a converted Thames-side wharf which opened last year. A successful conference and exhibition centre is operated within the old Derry and Toms department store off Kensington Street by Comfort Hotels International.

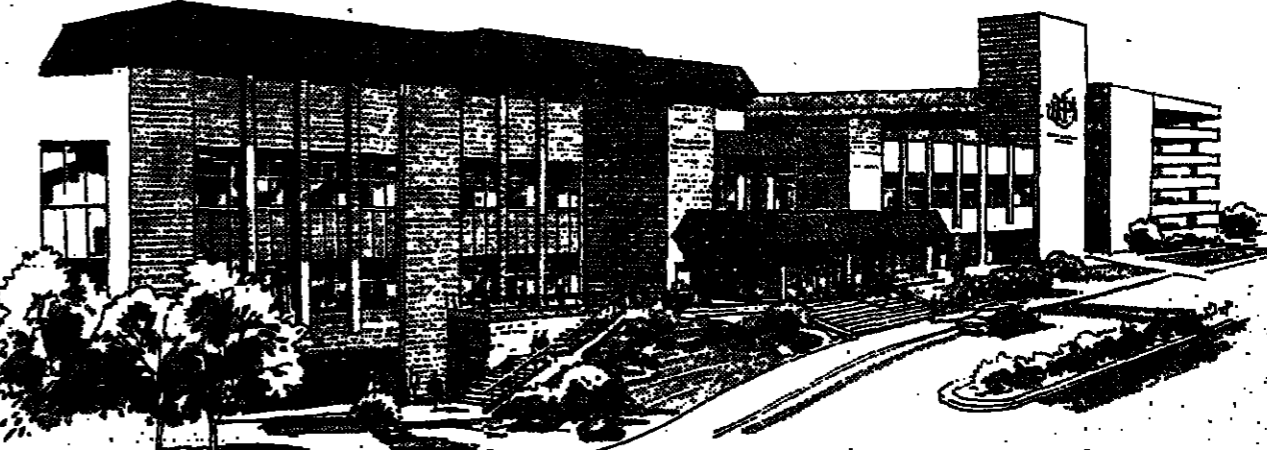
Additional investment at the Earl's Court and Olympia exhibition halls including from the Greater London Council, brings them up to international standards. Most bookings are for exhibitions but the more than 100,000 sq metres of covered space can be sub-divided for smaller exhibitions or used for meetings.

While no new hotels are in the pipeline there is extensive refurbishing of existing stock. One of London's strengths is that, thanks to the boom created by investment grants in the early 1970s, it now has a respectable range of more than 200 convention-orientated hotels and about 30,000 top-grade beds as well as meeting rooms. A further 70,000 or so beds are available in more modest establishments.

Often the deciding factor may rest on the intangible appeal of a particular destination. Providers of conference facilities sometimes forget that delegates commit twice as much personal time as working hours when they attend an international conference. London has the advantage that English is a common language for many international professions. Its main practical disadvantage - its prices - remains, although at least for the Americans, these are softened by the dollar exchange rate.

Patricia Tisdall

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Public ownership and the political triangle

Just take a moment, before the gathering of the world's finance ministers in Washington drives all subjects but debt and the dollar off the economic agenda; to notice a rather rare British phenomenon: the expression of three apparently quite distinct views on a fundamental issue of economic management from our three not-so-distinct political groupings.

All three of them, you understand, are terribly keen on the topic: public ownership. The Tory Government is selling off considerable blocks of state assets so they may be owned by the public. Now Dr David Owen has thrown his "pebble into the pool of ideas" at the Social Democrats' conference last week, telling us it would be better to give the shares away. And the Labour Party last week restated its view that public ownership should mean ownership by the state.

Intriguing shift

Although the gap between Labour and the other two is the widest, there is still an intriguing shift in "A Future That Works", at least as expounded by Mr Roy Hattersley. Public opinion polls suggest that "nationalization" is hardly a vote-winner. Labour's emphasis has switched from a list of industries ripe for state takeover to a concentration on the need to control movements of private capital. Mr Hattersley's main theme was that capital outflows should be checked (and even repatriated).

But what about the Tories and the SDP? Well, both are, in theory, against monopoly, and in favour of the discipline of the market. And both are in favour of "wider share ownership". This has been a sub-theme of Tory policy since 1979, made manifest in the 1984 Budget, and featured strongly in Dr Owen's speeches.

There are three good reasons for supporting this view. The first, and most mundane, is the need to raise the level of private savings, because life in the late 20th century is plainly going to contain more non-earning years than life in the early 20th century, and complete dependence on the state for income in those years is not a satisfactory answer.

The second is the view, which can be traced back through Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's "property-owning democracy" to 19th century Liberal and Tory policies, that society is more stable the greater the number of its members who feel they have a direct, personal, financial stake in it. (The crude version of this high moral belief is that men with mortgages are less likely to go on strike - a theory tested beyond its limits by the miners' strike, since building societies have simply treated the miners like so many Mexicans and "rescheduled" their debts.)

Financial assets

As house ownership has crept up, so the focus has shifted from physical to financial assets. This is the core of Mrs Thatcher's aim, expressed in a curiously ill-chosen quotation on television, of trying to make "every man a man of property".

Of course, privatization is only one strand of this policy: Mr Nigel Lawson's reforms of the tax system, designed to encourage share purchases are at least equally important. (So too are worldwide

monetary policies which have switched the balance of advantage from borrowers to savers.) But privatization has certainly been proclaimed as "returning ownership to the people", which is why Dr Owen's intervention threatens to catch the Government on the hop.

Handing out shares to the citizenry, rather than selling them on the open market, would certainly get round two of the embarrassments of the privatization programme: the difficulty of judging the price, and the risk that all the shares may end up in two or three very large private hands. Of course, a distribution has dangers of its own: many shares would quickly be sold on, but at varying prices (so that the little old lady who flogged her British Telecom shares at the bottom of the market would be the 1980s' equivalent of the old lady who sold Great-grandma's china to that friendly antique dealer in the 1960s).

But the fundamental question is whether the overall pattern of gain and loss would be different. Most conveniently, the London Business School today publishes a macroeconomic analysis of the British Telecom flotation that helps with some of the questions.

The crude view is that the taxpayer gains from asset sales, and would lose from a straightforward share distribution. That is a bit too simple and short-term. The LBS assumes that the Government uses the revenues from the flotation to reduce gilt sales; but that investors see British Telecom shares largely as an alternative to other equities. The net result is a modest rise in gilt prices and a fall in equities, both declining in the longer-term, and a lower long-term level of public borrowing because the gilts the Government would have had to sell without the Telecom flotation would have cost more to service in the future than the net loss of income from a privatized British Telecom.

Wishful thinking

If the Government has a fixed borrowing target, as this one does, this modest continuing benefit could be used to cut tax, which would support Dr Owen's view that a sale of assets benefits the taxpayer, not the nation as a whole. But it could equally be used to increase public spending - thus shifting the benefit to the poorest in society, if a government so wished. A share distribution, by the same logic, could mean either slightly higher taxes or lower spending.

Even so, there is some uneasy acknowledgment of the force of Dr Owen's desire for a wide initial distribution in the Government's own plans for the flotation - in particular, the highly advantageous terms offered to individual customers.

But there is a third reason for the prevalent enthusiasm for widening share ownership, which is satisfied neither by hand-outs nor sale. That is to increase not only personal ownership and assets, but personal stakes in the workplaces. Again, this is an aim pursued by the Government, but with the SDP at its heels. There is a certain amount of wishful thinking in the view that share distributions could be used to sweeten modest wage settlements; but it is the kind Britain needs if it is ever to achieve economic vigour and flexibility.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bloodstock agency to join USM

By Derek Pain

Shares of the British Bloodstock Agency, the world's largest agency offering a comprehensive service to breeders, owners and trainers of racehorses, will be traded on the Unlisted Securities Market. Among its charges is Mill Reef, the 1971 Derby winner.

Details of the flotation, which is expected to value the business at up to £6m, will be published this week. Dealings are likely to start next week.

The agency was started in 1911. Profits in its last financial year to end-March were £1,272,000. There is no forecast for this year, but trading is going well.

The company has 26 shareholders, mostly past and present employees or people connected with the business. About 25 per cent of the capital is to be placed.

Li-Cot Robin Hastings, aged 67, is chairman. Major Christo Philipson, aged 55, has been managing director since 1968. The company is coming to the USM to create a market in its shares. It may use its share quote to expand.

BPA, which is also deeply involved in stallion syndicates and transports and insures horses, has been courted by people interested in buying it or acquiring a substantial share interest. But it wants to remain independent.

After the flotation more than half the shares will be held by directors and their associates. USM Review, page 21

● BEDFORD COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, the loss-making truck and bus arm of General Motors in the United Kingdom, is set to return to profitability in 1986. Mr J. T. Battenberg, the general manager, said yesterday.

Last year Bedford and Vauxhall car business made total losses of £53m. ● IN SPITE OF some recent progress the less developed countries' foreign debt still amounted to nearly 150 per cent of their exports while debt servicing accounted for more than a fifth of their exports, Signor Carlo Ciampi, governor of the Bank of Italy, said at a conference of representatives from 87 countries' central banks and monetary authorities.

development agency. The report envisages drawing on existing resources rather than fresh finance to provide support for policy programmes implemented by governments under the bank's supervision. The fund need not be administered by the bank.

A special meeting of the IMF and World Bank joint development committee should be convened not later than next spring to further discussions on reform of the international monetary system, according to a report prepared for Commonwealth finance ministers, Peter Wilson-Smith writes.

The report was drawn up by an eight-nation consultative group at the request of Commonwealth heads of government and will be presented to the finance ministers at their meeting in Toronto this week. The members of the group include Britain, Canada, New Zealand, India, Tanzania, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe.

It may draw a dusty response from developing country members of the Commonwealth who remain wary of using the development committee as a forum because of the dominant influence of the industrialized countries.

Monetary reform call

sent to the finance ministers at their meeting in Toronto this week. The members of the group include Britain, Canada, New Zealand, India, Tanzania, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe.

It may draw a dusty response from developing country members of the Commonwealth who remain wary of using the development committee as a forum because of the dominant influence of the industrialized countries.

Borrie accuses insurers of giving customers poor deal

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Tougher control of Lloyd's to deal with policyholder complaints was urged at the weekend by Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading. In a wide-ranging criticism of many aspects of the insurance industry, he also proposed abolishing commission payments by insurance companies to brokers.

In a speech to a British Insurance Brokers' Association (Biba) conference in Peebles, Borders, Sir Gordon went on the attack on a number of issues.

● "Bluntly, people do not seem to know what they are getting when they buy household insurance and therefore they cannot look for the best value for money by comparing competing policies. It is difficult not to draw the inference that insurance companies and intermediaries who advise householders are letting them down."

● On buildings policies, "the current practice of insurance companies requiring premiums to be based on reinstatement costs denies the policyholder freedom

to choose to pay on a market value basis and the building societies should not insist on insurance beyond the full amount owing to them."

● "I know some brokers like to produce their own documentation rather than using the insurer's but those who do so must take extra care that they take account of changes in cover. There have been complaints about brokers not passing on vital information from insurers and this is inexcusable."

● "Too many consumers are being sold policies which are unnecessary or not best suited to their needs and the sales techniques of some [in the industry] are a matter of shame rather than pride."

● Complaints about insurance to local authority trading standards departments in the 12 months to March this year totalled 9,249, a "considerably higher" number than in recent years. This was low compared with some other categories of trading, but Sir Gordon thought that was partly because "in-



Borrie: sales technique of some "a matter of shame"

insurance is so difficult for many people to understand that they are not sure whether they are justified in complaining."

Lloyd's underwriters should be subject to the same controls as other insurers, Sir Gordon said. He said the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau was now supported by more than 50 insurance groups with the Personal Insurance Arbitration Service catering for customers of most other insurance com-

panies. Complaining policyholders thus had a cost-free alternative to courts.

But Lloyd's policyholders can complain only to Lloyd's Advisory Department, Sir Gordon said. He added that he wanted to see the industry "move to a position where there is adequate redress, including conciliation and arbitration, for the clients of all insurers."

The system under which insurance companies pay often substantial commission to brokers did not inspire total confidence, Sir Gordon said. He added: "Would not the interests of policyholders be better served if there were a gradual evolution to a system in which the intermediary took a fee from the policyholder for his services and passed on any commission which he received from the insurer?"

With a self-regulatory agency now under discussion between the insurance industry and Whitehall, Sir Gordon emphasized the need to ensure such an agency "does not behave like a self-regarding cartel".

Tax action, page 21

Acrow founder to see receiver

By William Kay, City Editor

Mr Michael Jordan of Cork Gully, one of the joint receivers of Acrow, the failed crane-making company, is flying to Switzerland tomorrow for his first meeting with Mr William de Vigier, Acrow's founder.

Mr de Vigier, aged 72, had voting control of the company until the receivers were called in a fortnight ago. He has been reluctant to leave his wife's bedside at their home near Zurich as she is recovering from major surgery.

Mr de Vigier has been

rumoured to be interested in buying parts of the group, but the main item on the agenda tomorrow will be the fate of Acrow's wide-ranging overseas associate companies, most of which he still controls.

Acrow's minority interests in these could be worth several million pounds to the receivers. The group collapsed with debts of almost £50m.

Meanwhile, 800 prospective buyers should, by this morning, have received, Cork Gully's mini-prospectus covering Ac-

row's UK operations, including such names as Coles Cranes, Thos Storey (Engineers) and Priestman Brothers.

The breakup of Acrow has already attracted a stream of interest from top names in the construction business, both British and foreign.

The interest is such that the banks have a good chance of recovering their £40m at risk. Shareholders, however, can expect nothing.

Latin group challenges creditors

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Latin American debtor countries have issued a challenge to the industrialized world to accept its share of responsibility for Latin America's debt crisis and negotiate before it is too late.

The was the message of the weekend conference held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, ahead of this week's annual International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington.

By issuing an "invitation" to Western industrial nations to take part in a political summit between the world's debtor and creditor nations, the Cartagena group of Latin American debtors has reinforced its unity and clearly placed the ball in the opponents' court.

The foreign and economic ministers of the 11 Latin nations which belong to the Cartagena group decided to include the invitation for "direct political talks" in the conference's final declaration on Friday only 24 hours after both the United States and Britain had voiced their opposition to such a summit. They even amended a "softer" earlier draft of the declaration, which would have put off the call for a debt summit until after "consultations" with the creditor nations.

Although few concrete measures were adopted at the conference, observers said it was significant that the Latin nations managed to fend off efforts by Western banks to "undermine" the Cartagena group's unity.

When the conference began last week, many participants feared that Mexico's recent successful settlement with its creditor banks would signal the success of the banks' "divide and conquer" policy of rewarding only those nations which comply with strict austerity measures dictated by the International Monetary Fund.

But both Brazil, which begins renegotiations on its debts next month and Mexico approved the tougher stance proposed by Argentina and Colombia.

Amex in French tie-up

By Lorna Bourke

American Express has signed a deal with the French bank Credit Lyonnais which will give Amex cardholders instant cash from any of 600 Credit Lyonnais cash centre machines.

Amex has confirmed it is negotiating for similar agreements with banks in the UK, West Germany, Scandinavia, Italy, Spain and elsewhere.

Lloyds Bank is the most likely candidate for the UK tie-up as Amex already has a joint Gold Card scheme.

Initially, the Credit Lyonnais facility will be available to US cardholders only. The scheme starts on January 1.

Mr Louis Gerstner, chief executive of American Express travel related services, said that Amex intends to extend the Express Cash facility to all cardholders.

This would entitle UK cardholders to obtain cash at any of 3,000 bank outlets already in the Express Cash scheme in the US.

Tea group's new defence

Brooke Bond, the tea to Oxo group, will today issue its second defence document in under a month, this time in response to the £355m bid by Unilever. A profit forecast of around £77m in the year to June 1985 will be made compared with one of £70m for the previous year in the defence document against Tate & Lyle's bid. A 25 per cent dividend increase is also expected in the package.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Change on week

FT-SE 100 Index: 1109.6 up 10.3
FT Index: 859.4 up 7.7
FT All Share: 523.77 up 5.19

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Aldison International, Barr & Wallace, Arnold Trust, C. D. Brannell, W. Canning, H. B. Electronics, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, Sele & Tilney, Scottish Maritime Trust, Simon Engineering, Spring Ram Corporation, Tarmac, Farnley Chambers & Fargus, Dalgety, G. T. Japan Investment Trust.

TOMORROW - Interim: Brent Chemicals International, British Syphon Industries, Britton Estates, Clyde Petroleum, Fisons, Garton Engineering, House of Fraser, Bernard Matthews, McCaughlin & Harvey, Priced Services, Stag Furniture Holdings, Finlay: Barrat Developments, Consolidated Goldfields, Inter Europe Technology Services, Manson Finance Trust, Richardson Westgarth, George H. Scholes, Alfred Walker.

WEDNESDAY - Interim: Barrow Hepburn, BAT Industries, Biomechanics International, Britannia Arrow, Calabread Robey, Clarke Nickolls & Coombs, Coats Paterson, Cooper Industries, John Folkes Heto, Jensens Drilling, Jones & Shipman, Julian's Holdings, Liverpool Daily Post & Echo, Hugh Mackay, Moban Group, Neuman Industries, Owen Owen, Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation.

FINALS: Armstrong Equipment, Ben Bailey Construction, Protimeter, Trafalgar Park Estates.

THURSDAY - Interim: William Baird, Barker & Dobson, Bodecote International, British Printing & Communication Corporation, Carlton Industries, Alex. Duckham, Grattan, John Laing, Laporte Industries, W. Morrison Supermarkets, Rowntree Mackintosh, George Spencer, Sunlight Electronics, Systems Designers International, Tharsis, Vesper, Yule Catto.

FINALS: Bogod-Pelepach, Cope Alamm, Lawrie Group, Mezzanin Capital Corporation, A & J Mucklow.

FRIDAY - Interim: JSD Computer Group International, International Investment Company of Jersey, Liberty, Macdonald Martin Distilleries Ranown Inc, Southampton, Isle of Wight and South of England and Royal Mail Steam Packet, Blake, Beame, and Company.

FINALS: WG Allen & Sons (Tipton), Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, SW Wood Group.

Beryl's handy with a drill

And that means that Mobil's newest platform in the North Sea doesn't have to rely solely on men to do a very dirty - and potentially dangerous - job for her.

Instead, Beryl B tackles part of the task herself, using equipment known as an iron roughneck. This innovative device grapples with enormous lengths of drill pipe, connecting them together as drilling progresses at speeds of up to 150 rpm. Skilled (and human) operators supervise from the sidelines as Beryl gets on with an important job. The result is increased speed, greater efficiency and - most important of all - vastly improved safety.

As far as Mobil and its fellow venture participants are concerned, those have been the overriding objectives in her entire drilling operation.

Noteworthy too are a new top-drive drilling system and innovative use of aluminium drill pipe.

Beryl B's tendencies are, in short, distinctly high-tech. And since she began producing oil on 6 July - under budget and ahead of schedule - her exacting demands have paid off.

It's no wonder that Beryl B stands so tall among her peers in the North Sea: all 225 steely metres of her.

World Bank urges action on Africa

By Michael Prest

A new emergency fund for sub-Saharan Africa is being proposed in a special World Bank report on Africa's economic crisis. The proposal is to be presented to the bank's members at this week's combined annual meeting of the bank and the International Monetary Fund, Whitehall officials say.

The report, called "Accelerated Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Agenda for Action", is mentioned but not detailed in the bank's annual report for 1984, published today.

But it is understood that the Africa report, which the World Bank's third big study on the continent since 1981, stresses the need for much better coordination of donor efforts. It also lays heavy emphasis on policy changes by African governments.

The proposed fund is not seen, however, as another

development agency. The report envisages drawing on existing resources rather than fresh finance to provide support for policy programmes implemented by governments under the bank's supervision. The fund need not be administered by the bank.

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It may draw a dusty response from developing country members of the Commonwealth who remain wary of using the development committee as a forum because of the dominant influence of the industrialized countries.

The bank's consistent argument over recent years that policy changes are crucial is supported by the lending figures for the fiscal year July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984. During that period new lending by the World Bank totalled a record \$11,949m (£9,400m), an increase of 7 per cent over the previous year.

At the same time the International Development Association raised its lending from \$1,341m to \$3,575m, and the International Finance Corporation, the banks arm which lends on more commercial terms to private enterprises in the Third World, provided \$696m in new finance.

Within these totals, World Bank lending to West Africa, the region which in its classification includes most of the sub-Saharan area, leapt from \$664m in 1983 to \$1,182m in fiscal 1984.

Mobil Beryl B

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

Outlook hinges on strength of dollar

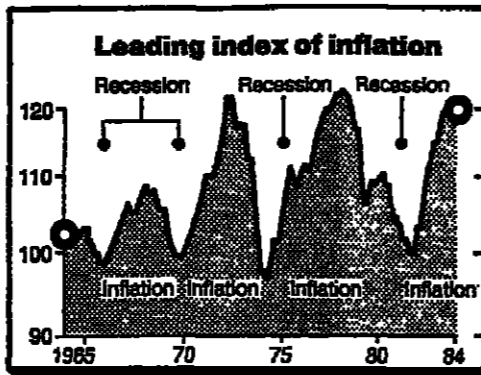
By Michael Hughes

US factors are all important for the gilt market this autumn. Domestic factors, we believe, are broadly neutral. This is in contrast to the spring and early summer months when both US and domestic influences pushed bond prices down. For the moment, the negative impact of British industrial disputes is counterbalanced by reassuring domestic economic evidence. Since a Reagan victory in the presidential election is taken as read, perhaps the most important consideration from a bond market viewpoint is not whether the US recovery is slowing down but rather why? A deceleration in economic growth is normally expected at this stage of the economic cycle. What is at issue is whether this represents a smooth transition to a growth rate in line with the sustainable long-term growth of the US or the beginning of a sharp correction brought about by factors which are themselves negative influences on bonds. The latter is the pattern of

recent cycles. Memories of a sharp acceleration in inflation and a progressive if belated tightening of monetary policy are still vivid. They became the norm in the cycles of the seventies. Are they to be repeated perhaps even in a more extreme form in the eighties?

The evidence, like the present economic forecasts for the US, diverges greatly. It can be conveniently illustrated by two graphs. The first is a leading index of inflation constructed by the Centre for International Business Cycle Research at Columbia University.

The second represents the percentage balance of respondents to the National Association of Purchasing Management's survey who are raising their prices. The first graph is for the pessimists. It summarizes all the traditional domestic lead indicators of inflation and gives a warning that the US is again heading for double digit inflation.

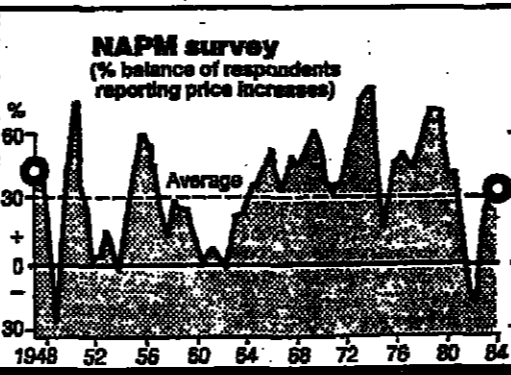


The second graph reassures the optimists. Despite high rates of economic growth, labour and component shortages, a deteriorating trade balance and rapidly accelerating credit demands, in short, all the symptoms of overheating, there are still no signs of major upward pressures on final prices.

This evidence is not as contradictory as it first appears. It has one common denominator, namely the strength of the dollar. The lead indicator of inflation rightly identifies the domestic pressures on inflation. But shortages of good and

capacity can be made up from imports which, because of the dollar's strength over the last two years, are 16 per cent cheaper. A deteriorating trade balance is made to appear virtuous when other economies are struggling to sustain their recovery.

The survey evidence simply records the fact that a high dollar has encouraged the consumption of relatively low cost imports and allowed profit margins to be rebuilt without significantly raising final prices. A rough estimate would be that the 16 per cent dollar appreci-



ation over the last two years has kept United States inflation, measured by the gnp deflator, some 1.5 percentage points below what it otherwise would have been. The bottom line of this analysis is that just as in earlier cycles, the United States economic slowdown could be exacerbated by an acceleration in inflation but only if the dollar is allowed to fall steeply.

The United States, therefore, has a vested interest in maintaining a high exchange rate. History has shown that changes in the foreign exchange markets are rarely small. Once expectations that the dollar has "turned" gather momentum, the flight of foreign capital from the United States or, more especially, a slowing down of the inflow, would also make the financing of the budget deficit much more difficult. Having taken steps to encourage foreign savings in the United States they would be loath to reverse this policy.

Given that foreign exchange markets now sense that the

dollar may be heading down over the short term, this raises the question of when the Fed may feel it necessary to halt any dollar depreciation. Only very general guidelines can be offered. A DMS exchange rate is generally perceived to be too high. Something around DM2.80 might prove to be more acceptable. The green light for a sustained dollar depreciation without an interest rate response has not been given.

It therefore now looks as if US interest rates could be maintained at a high level by the need to prevent a sharp dollar downturn rather than by real economy developments. Indeed, general indicators of the real economy suggest that economic growth is slowing. Taken together with the National Association of Purchasing Management's monthly survey released two weeks ago, there is a very strong indication that the underlying momentum of the US economy is beginning to ease significantly.

If so, some of the more pessimistic forecasts for interest rates based on an acceleration in credit demand seem misplaced. Instead, the need to maintain the dollar's strength may be the final arbiter over interest rate prospects. The constraints imposed by not allowing the dollar to depreciate significantly argue against expecting the US news to remain favourable for more than relatively short periods at a time.

The author is chief economist and a partner of de Zoete & Bevan, stockbrokers.

Midway faces deadline on Air Florida deal

By Alison Eadie

The deadline for completion of Midway Airline's proposed buy-out of Air Florida expires today, having been extended from last Friday's deadline.

Air Florida's attorney asked the bankruptcy court for an extension because time was

required to finalize certain documents. Under the terms of the buy-out, Midway would pay Air Florida, which filed for bankruptcy a few weeks ago, \$3m (£3.9m) in cash and a certain amount of Midway's convertible preferred stock with a potential value of \$4m (£3.15m). The transaction is subject to approval by a US Federal bankruptcy judge.

A committee of Air Florida's unsecured creditors will support Midway's proposed buy-out, according to lawyers representing the creditors' committee. However, Delta Air Lines, which is also a creditor, is expected to oppose Midway's plans.

Air Florida would serve nine cities by September 30 under Midway's proposed plan. It would fly under the name Midway Express and serve Washington DC, Chicago, Palm Beach, Orlando, Tampa, Westchester in New York, Miami, St Thomas and St Croix.

In the plan's second phase to be implemented by about November 2, Air Florida's aircraft would be redeployed between the Mid-west and Florida/Caribbean areas. Midway would use some of Air Florida's slots at La Guardia Airport, New York and Washington DC's National Airport, flying Midway Metro-link aircraft.

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APPOINTMENTS

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance: Mr. Sidney A. Hopkins is to succeed Mr. George L. Williams as general manager (UK) on the latter's retirement next May. Mr. Hopkins is currently assistant general manager in charge of GRE's United Kingdom branch operations. His new responsibilities will include GRE's life operations in addition to its non-life business. Mr. Michael Harris has been named as general manager - designate (operations control). He takes up his appointment on Mr. Peter Greenfield's retirement next May. Mr. Harris is at present GRE's deputy general manager (UK). Mr. Dennis Brennan is to become general manager on the managing director's staff with special responsibilities in the areas of worldwide administration, organization and the promotion of business contacts. Mr. John M. R. Evans has been appointed deputy secretary of Guardian Royal Exchange.

Mirror Group Newspapers: Mr. Derek Haynes has joined the board.

Thornby Electronics: Mr. James Conwell has been appointed managing director. R. P. Martin Sterling, Mr. R. Hamfield, Mr. W. Gibson and Mr. A. Peaty have become directors.

Bank of Scotland: Mr. Andrew McLaughlin has been appointed managing director of the financial futures department in London.

Datapoint Microsystems: Mr. Herbert Hanna has become managing director.

Industrial Market Research: Mr. Parvath Sankar has been made deputy chief executive.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCKS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON MONDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 1984.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 14th September 1984, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts, as indicated, of each of the Stocks listed below:

£150 million 2½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1986
£100 million 3 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1987

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 14th September 1984 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 14th September 1984 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock making in all reserves pari passu with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions of its prospectus, save as to the particulars therein which related solely to the initial sale of the Stock. Copies of the prospectuses for the Stocks listed above, dated 21st November 1983 and 30th December 1981 respectively, may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA.

Applications have been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List. The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
2½% Exchequer Stock, 1986	21st November 1986	21st May 1986
3% Treasury Stock, 1987	14th July 1987	14th January 1987

Each further tranche of stock issued on 14th September 1984 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant Stock.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
14th September 1984

LOUIS NEWMARK PLC

Statement of Group Results for the year ended 31st March, 1984

	1983/84 £'000	1982/83 £'000
Turnover	53,200	50,600
Group Profit	1,853	1,808
deduct: Depreciation	731	717
deduct: Exceptional item (see below)	351	—
Profit before Taxation	771	891
deduct: Provision for Taxation (see Note 1)	107	263
Profit after Taxation	664	628
add/deduct: Extraordinary item (see Note 2)	552	(88)
Profit after Extraordinary item	1,216	540
Dividends (Net)	30	30
Preference	1,186	510
Ordinary: Interim	133	—
Final	222	355
Retained Profits carried forward	831	155

Note 1: The taxation charge for the year has been reduced by £335,000 (1983 £250,000) as a result of stock relief.

Note 2: As a result of fundamental changes in the basis of taxation contained in the Finance Act 1984 the deferred taxation provision at the beginning of the year has been recalculated giving rise to an extraordinary taxation credit for the year of £552,000 (1982/83 £88,000 closure of factory).

The Chairman, Mr. Geoffrey Newmark in his Report states:—
Had it not been for the collapse of Camber International (England) Limited as detailed in our Interim Report, the Board would have reported profits of £1,122M as compared with £891K for the previous year, an increase of 26% against an increase in turnover of only 12.5%. Regrettably, however, the collapse of Camber has reduced profits by £552K.

Despite the fact that the commercial side of our business is now making steady progress both in growth and profitability, the current delays in defence policies in the international field force me to take a prudent view in forecasting the profits for the year to 30th March, 1985 and anticipate a result similar to that achieved in the year now closed (£1,122M).

Directors recommend a final dividend of 7.5p per share giving a total for the year of 12.0p per share similar to last year.

Copies of the full Report can be obtained from the Secretary
80 Gloucester Road, Croydon, CR9 2LD.

ROYAL MAIL SERVICES FOR BUSINESS ECONOMY

Businessmen who aim to save money should start in the mail room.

The mail can help a company improve its profitability and efficiency — with a whole range of ideas grouped under **Royal Mail Services for Business Economy**.

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Then tick the boxes in the coupon and send it off.

Would you like to save 12% on the cost of your company's postage? There are two big discount offers for businesses that send large numbers of letters. One is for First Class post, the other for Second Class. Tick the boxes!

Do you want to encourage your customers to reply? FREEPOST saves them the stamp, so they'll answer more readily. And businesses using this service for the first time don't even have to pay a licence fee for the first year. Tick the box!

Would you like your customers to pay more quickly? Business Reply envelopes can mean you get your money sooner and improve your cash flow. You don't believe this? Tick the box!

Does your company spend more on postage each year? You could qualify for a major discount on the extra postage — saving up to 20% on the real growth. It's called Incentive Discount for Growth. Tick the Box!

How about faster invoicing? Get the bill to the customer earlier and he can pay earlier. So switching to First Class Mail can save you money. You don't believe this? Tick the box!

Are you wasting weight? You can send up to 60g without incurring extra postage. Make full use of the weight allowance — by sending a sales message in the same envelope. Tick the box!

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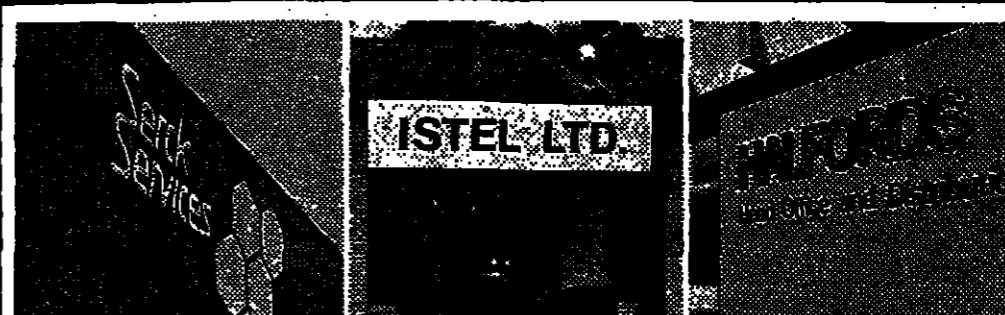
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Whatever happened to the likely lads?

They're doing well in Redditch, thank you. Halfords, Serck Services, ISTE Ltd. And likely lads don't have to be big boys either. There's plenty of local talent made good too.

We've a long list of successes for others. We believe we can do it for you. If you'd like to know more 'phone Jayne Cannon on Redditch (0527) 64200. It's extremely likely we can help.

Aren't you ready for Redditch?

Post to: Bernard Ryan, Property Director, Redditch Development Corporation, Holmwood, Plymouth Road North, Redditch, Worcestershire. Telex Redlaw G. 335201.

Please arrange for me to have: ☐ a video presentation on Redditch (format required) ☐ a fact file ☐ a visit to Redditch

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RUGBY UNION: RISE AND FALL AT TWICKENHAM

Llanelli's great days are not recalled against Harlequins

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Harlequins 15

There was a time when this fixture was noted for some spectacular rugby and a handful of points, mostly from Llanelli. That was when the Scarlets were at their blushing best; they have declined. Harlequins have improved. The points are still there but at Twickenham on Saturday they derived from a goal and six penalty goals against four penalties and a dropped goal in the course of a boring, often bad-tempered match.

The London division selectors who were there pondering the composition of their squad to play the Australians which will be announced at the end of this month will not have added greatly to the sum of their knowledge. Oler continues to impress as hooker and whenever I see him, C. O'Brien, a New Zealander, has a useful match.

Within the first 15 minutes, two of the Llanelli forwards had been warned by Tony Tigg about their play and the tone was set for a team full of intimidation. Of constructive rugby there was little, and that from the Harlequins, who were unlucky to have only one first-half try as a reward for their better intentions. Preston indicated why he had been preferred to John Butcher on the wing and Rose entered the line to good effect.

Much of Rose's game was of a high quality, though he has developed a nasty little stutter at the beginning of his place kicking. I imagine Tony Jordan, himself an international full-back, and now a selector, would like to have seen him tackling, but Llanelli offered little chance that they remained in con-

tention at all was through Pearce's accurate goal-kicking, two penalties and a dropped goal coming in the first half and two more penalties in the second half in a game where Llanelli conceded penalty awards in the ratio of two to one.

Harlequins, one suspects, have their idea of how they would like to develop their rugby. It will be a surprise if they do not emerge as a formidable force during the winter having the capacity to adjust their game according to circumstances. Milne made a typically solid first appearance, though he must have given Melchard, his fellow Scot, a surprise by appearing in the stand-off half position behind the maul on one occasion.

Weeks roamed effectively up and down the line-out though Harlequins were unable to prevent May dominating the front of the line. Even though Jackson will be absent from their ranks for some weeks because of his medical commitments, they will have an embarrassment of riches when Chris Butcher becomes available on their back row contention once more. It was the back row who registered the only try of the game, Melchard breaking close to a scrum, feeding Cooke and Lillington scoring. Rose converted and kicked six of nine penalty attempts.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Try: Lillington. Conversion: Rose. Penalties: Rose (6). Dropped Goal: Pearce. Harlequins: M. Rose; S. Moriarty, H. G. Jones, A. Thompson, C. Preston, R. Crab, H. Melchard, P. Curtis, J. Oler, I. Milne, P. Lillington, W. Cuthbertson, M. O'Brien, C. Cooke (Capt), S. Weekes, L. Llanelli, K. Thomas, P. Lewis, N. Davies, P. Morgan, E. Ellis, G. Pearce, J. Griffiths, A. Buchanan, G. Towler, D. Delaney, N. Sanders, P. May (Capt), R. Thomas, D. Pickering, A. Griffiths. Referee: J. Tigg (London).

Harlequins and Llanelli forwards rising to the occasion

Technical men get to work on England

By David Hands

England, having appointed a technical administrator a decade ago and divisional administrators over the last three years, have gradually come to the conclusion that their technical staff have a role to play in the preparation of the national side.

Yesterday's squad training at the Stoop Memorial ground for potential England and divisional backs was run largely by Don Rudgford, the Rugby Football Union's technical administrator with the assistance of Chalky White and Alan Old, technical administrators for the South-West and North respectively. Similarly, tonight's training for forwards at Gloucester will be run largely by the professional technical men with Richard Greenwood, the national coach, and Derek Morgan, chairman of selectors, occupying consecutive positions in the main.

In the view of the authorities there is no breach of international Board regulations - which forbid professional coaching - since this was not a squad preparing for a specific match. The purpose of the two get-togethers, Mr Morgan said, was as much to maintain channels of communication as to give players a clear idea of what is required at international level.

The formula for the two dozen players at the Stoop yesterday included 100,000 and 3,000 yards, as well as the creation of games situations and lines of running. Palmer (Bath) and Goodwin (Moseley) were injured in their club game on Saturday and did not attend, nor did Burnhill, the Yorkshire centre who underwent a knee operation during the summer. It was encouraging to see Melville, the Wasps scrum half, taking an active part, though he is unlikely to have reached match fitness in time for England's game with Australia on November 3. Dodge (Leicester) and Barley (Wakefield) attended although they did not participate, both have hopes of being fit to play for their club next weekend and are available for selection against the World XV on September 29.

Dodge's club defeated London Welsh 18-9 on Saturday. Cusworth scored the only try of the game and dropped a goal. The half-appearance, stand-off half, Barnes, helped Bristol to a 19-12 win over Swansea by kicking two penalties, a dropped goal and a conversion to try by the other try while Swift, the England wing, recorded Swansea's solo try.

Coveney, however, were on the wrong end of their particular Welsh encounter, losing 17-0 at Cardiff. Coveney are without Brain, the injured England hooker, and Kidner, the lock at the moment, but they offered stiff defence before Cardiff scored tries to Hadley, Carrington and Holmes.

No sense of occasion in the absence of a prince

By Gerald Davies

Aberavon 16

Newbridge 12

There were some who milked of Elizabeth Taylor's recent visit to the valley village up the road and some who tried to remember the names of the players who took part in the Talbot Athletic ground, others debated whether watching Newbridge play without Paul Turner was like watching Hamlet without the Prince. Whichever of such conversations helped to distract from the bland offerings on the field.

Turner was missed. There was no life in Newbridge without him. Aberavon still sifting through the squad for the best combination, lacked someone to lift their game as well. The play progressed wearily from one set-piece to another, from one whistle to the next. There was a lot of aimless kicking and chasing in between, with the players forever ending up in a heap. The whole game was a bit like a slow-motion process to start all over again.

Aberavon, I suppose, deserved to win by a try, three penalties and a dropped goal for four penalties if only for the sole excuse that they spent marginally more of their time lying in the Newbridge half.

No one seemed capable of getting

Headingley inspire

By Michael Stevenson

The early exchanges in the Northern Hemisphere have left Sale clearly established as the team that others need to beat. A couple of the outsiders, Vale of Evesham and Harrogate, registered good wins at the weekend. Vale beating a depleted Wakefield (27-13) and Rovers scraping home against Hyde 9-6.

Intensive, strife apart, the weekend was largely concerned with the challenge of northern invaders, although Rotherham sent Gals back northwards snarling from defeat (18-15), perhaps the most capitulating contest was at Kirkstall, where Harrogate, well beaten the previous Saturday, by Harrow, found new verve and inspiration to outclass London-Scottish (34-8), themselves comfortable conquerors of Orrell, the previous weekend.

In the north-east, Gosforth, intent on establishing themselves as the north's premier club, comfortably defeated Ryeleigh Park, who were previously unbeaten. Gosforth were comfortably placed at the interval,

the ball cleanly in the line-out and they soon were after disrupted. The ball bobbed around so much that the scrum halves, Giles and Davies, could do little but fall on it. If they did get their hands on it they kicked or gave it to their partners who kicked.

Jones and Burgess kicked a penalty each for Aberavon. Huxley replied with one for the visitors. Then Aberavon with a sudden shaft of insight and to everyone's surprise, scored from a passing movement. It was so simple. A forward drive on the left formed the platform for the back division to pass quickly along the line for Thomas to score.

There was hope then that Kees, capped four times for Wales in 1980, might yet get the opportunity to score his 100th try for the club. There was no such luck and the game reverted to its nondescript character.

SCORERS: Aberavon: Try: Thomas; penalties: Burgess (4). Aberavon dropped goal: Burgess. Newbridge: Penalties: Huxley (3), Goodwin (2).

ABERAVON: J. Griffiths, M. Thomas, A. Jones, S. Jones, L. Kees, D. Burgess, R. Gales, R. Davies, S. Jones, P. Davies, S. Gowers, M. Jones, A. Simpson, R. Seal, S. Griffiths, M. Short. Referee: R. P. Jones (Swansea).

NEWBRIDGE: G. Goodwin, A. Gleson, J. Kees, G. Mervin, C. Phillips, D. Huxley, J. Davies, S. Jones, A. Simpson, R. Seal, S. Griffiths, M. Short. Referee: R. P. Jones (Swansea).

having earned a 15-6 lead, through a try by Hare and a conversion and three penalties by Johnson to two penalties from Henderson. They attacked enterprisingly in the second half but could only add two further penalties by Johnson.

Mike Weston and Dick Greenwood, on England duty, watched Waps win convincingly at St Michael's (13-22) after Liverpool had lost convincingly for most of the first half. They must have watched Hare Davies with a special interest. He kicked with remarkable skill and precision, and in the first half kicked his passes to the powerful Lozowski in the centre intelligently.

Stranger had a fairly good match at full back but sometimes looked rather ponderous, while Bailey, surviving hard to make bricks without straw on the left wing, languished largely ignored. For the record, Jeffrey scored Liverpool's try, and Killen kicked three penalties. Ischer and Smith scored tries for Park, with Stringer contributing four penalties and a conversion.

CRICKET

Captaincy change should aid Tavaré

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

It is a pity that the switch in the captaincy of Kent from Chris Tavaré to Christopher Cowdrey should have been interpreted as a "sacking" for Tavaré. It is a Tavaré's own interest quite as much as Kent's, that he be relieved of a job which, for the past two seasons, has had an adverse effect on his form. His loyalty, modesty and dedication are such as to begot blessing rather than blame.

Tavaré has had a past few weeks of incredible ups and downs. Brought in to the England side to stand firm against the West Indies fast bowlers, where others had not, he earned an encomium from the selectors. He was widely tipped, after that, to become England's vice-captain in India. With an innings of 103 against Somerset at Taunton he had a lot to do with helping Kent into the final of the NatWest Trophy. After a summer in which he had made disappointingly few runs, he was looking up. Since then nothing has gone right for him.

He carried against Sri Lanka, in the Test match at Lord's, as though the ground was his. He was bowling at one end and Spofforth at the other, and then Kent lost the NatWest final. Although it was purely hypothetical, Tavaré's decision to take Underwood off at a crucial time was widely considered to have cost Kent the match. Kent still took it the last ball, and it was not Tavaré's fault that Kent, by now a Test cricketer, bowled Embury a juicy half-volley to win the match for Middlesex.

Cowdrey missed out on the Kent captaincy two years ago for two reasons: he was Colin's son (therefore was it nepotism?), and there was no certainty that he was good enough to hold a regular place in the county side. That would not have mattered in the old days, but it does now. Since then he has come on by leaps and bounds as a player, and when, as Tavaré's vice-captain, he has been in charge, he has been markedly successful. In 1983, when Tavaré was playing regularly for England, Kent won seven championship matches: in five of these they were captained by Cowdrey. This year Cowdrey captained them in three championship matches, all of which they won.

Brian Luckhurst, Kent's manager, got it right when he said how fortunate they were to have two captains. But in an age when English cricket is so much in need of drive and personality (something, if you like, of the old amateur spirit) Cowdrey could be the one to do it. In 1976 he took the Young England XI to West Indies, a side which included, among others, Gower, Gatting, Athey, Gould, Allott, Dowdall and Richard Williams of Northamptonshire, and Hubert, the manager, gave him a reference such as you never saw before.

It should be in Kent's interest to have Cowdrey as captain and Tavaré as vice-captain. Even so, Underwood, Tavaré, Kent have reached the final of the NatWest in 1983 and again this year: they finished third in the John Player League in 1983, and seventh and fifth in the Championship in 1983 and 1984 respectively after being thirteenth in 1982. Cowdrey could captain England one day: Tavaré probably never will. Between them, as good friends, they could take Kent into a golden age.

Rice consoled

Clive Rice returned on Saturday to the ground where his county, Nottinghamshire, were denied the county championship last Tuesday when they lost to Lancashire 53-26 and included bat-trick in seven wickets. His 511 points were earned from his runs without dismissals multiplied by his wickets.

RESULTS: 1. C & A (Not. 53) vs. 7. W. (26) 53-26. 2. Kent (100) vs. 8. Lanc. (53) 100-53. 3. W. (26) vs. 9. Lanc. (53) 26-53. 4. Lanc. (53) vs. 10. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 5. Lanc. (53) vs. 11. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 6. Lanc. (53) vs. 12. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 7. Lanc. (53) vs. 13. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 8. Lanc. (53) vs. 14. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 9. Lanc. (53) vs. 15. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 10. Lanc. (53) vs. 16. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 11. Lanc. (53) vs. 17. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 12. Lanc. (53) vs. 18. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 13. Lanc. (53) vs. 19. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 14. Lanc. (53) vs. 20. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 15. Lanc. (53) vs. 21. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 16. Lanc. (53) vs. 22. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 17. Lanc. (53) vs. 23. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 18. Lanc. (53) vs. 24. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 19. Lanc. (53) vs. 25. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 20. Lanc. (53) vs. 26. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 21. Lanc. (53) vs. 27. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 22. Lanc. (53) vs. 28. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 23. Lanc. (53) vs. 29. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 24. Lanc. (53) vs. 30. Lanc. (53) 53-26. 25. Lanc. 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CHELSEA SW3
This is a 4/2/2 brick, upstairs master, 7
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Common touch at St Mary's Hospital

Continued from page 1

a painless birth brought me a girl, Angelica, weighing 7lbs 15oz.

Yesterday as the Princess left in a scarlet coat, hair coiffured, all ready to open that fête, the rest of us who had delivered on Saturday settled down to stay a few days longer. Not surprisingly, none of us looked ready for a similar exit, even if we had been given a hairdresser's help.

But having visited the Lindo, I am not surprised that the royals exit as soon as consultant gynaecologist Mr George Pinker gives the OK.

The wing is the self-contained non-national health part of the hospital. It is just off Paddington's busy Praed Street, hard by the station, the doner-kebab take-aways, the prostitutes and the large Victorian stucco houses now all turned into flats.

It was built in 1939 and opened by the Queen Mother. It has an inoffensive neo-Georgian facade. Inside it features solid dark wood everywhere: made to last but gloomy. The corridors and rooms are covered in hospital green and cream, and a plaque of a Madonna and child graces the hall.

A slow lift takes paying mothers-to-be to the fourth

maternity floor, where there are 11 separate beds. None of the bathrooms and lavatories are "en-suite", and the bathroom the Princess would have used is hardly luxurious, with aging white ceramic tiles, pipes of every sort and a bath that has seen better days. "Adequate" is the word.

The fourth floor faces east and west. The east-facing nursery is the sunniest room; large, white-painted and the most attractive.

The accepted wisdom among gynaecologists is that a hospital is by far the safest place for childbirth. Mr Pinker, who has been a part-time consultant at St Mary's for years, adopts this policy.

Ironically, the NHS Alect Bourne wards are much nicer than the Lindo's fourth floor. Unlike the Lindo, they were modernized two years ago; all mod cons and painted a warm modern colour.

But the Princess can hardly muck in with the rest of us; protocol wouldn't allow.



In focus: The banks of photographers awaiting the proud parents and Prince Henry outside the Paddington hospital yesterday

Henry regains a place in royal affections

By Alan Hamilton

It is some time since the Royal Family cried God for Harry, England and St George. The name of Prince Henry Charles Albert David will not be without controversy.

Prince Harry, as he is to be known, breaks with recent tradition. No other member of the Royal Family now bears the name; the last was Prince Henry, son of King George V, who became Duke of Gloucester, and the last monarch to bear it was the Eighth of the six wives.

Should the two-day-old

Harry ever ascend the throne - and plenty of second sons have done so - he would be entitled to call himself King Henry IX, although there is no iron precedent for the monarch to rule under his first baptismal name.

Those Jacobites who still drink to "The King Over the Water" will also be aware that somewhere among the descendants of the last Stuart king, James II, there was a man who already claimed to be King Henry IX of Great Britain.

The Prince of Wales has made it known that he will reign as King Charles III. But

the Jacobites had one of those as well, although fate consigned him to history as Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The new prince's second name of Charles comes most obviously from his father, but also from his maternal uncle, Lord Althorp.

Albert has long been popular in the House of Windsor. The name, from the Old German meaning "noble and bright", first arrived with Queen Victoria's beloved consort. It was also the first name of the Princess's grandfather, and of the prince's grandfather - who reigned as George VI.

David was the first name of King Edward VIII, who abdicated to become the Duke of Windsor, but in the present context it is a nod in the direction of the Queen Mother's family, being the name of her father's brother David Bowes-Lyon.

Henry, an old German compound meaning "home" and "rule" has been regaining some popularity. Last year, in the table of birth announcements in *The Times*, it rose from fifteenth place to seventh most popular second name. It may be confidently expected to rise higher.

Surgeon insisted on Lindo Wing

By Our Medical Correspondent

Prince Henry's delivery was in accord with the medical aphorism that second and third labours are the easiest and the least to result in complications for either the mother or the child.

The Princess of Wales's nine-hour labour was in line with the present day practice of aiming to keep a delivery at under 12 hours, after which time the incidence of infection and haemorrhage increases for the mother, and the baby is more likely to be adversely affected by the birth.

Mr George Pinker, the obstetrician, is reputed to have insisted that the child be delivered in the far from luxurious Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital where he looked after her for Prince William's birth and has also cared for other members of the Royal Family.

Mr St. Mary's, Mr Pinker would have had the support of trusted colleagues if an emergency had arisen. It is thought in medical circles that the Palace is unlikely to have raised strong opposition

Letter from Beirut

Homes built over place of horror

It has changed since the massacre. Not the flies, or the little rivers of sewage, or the survivors who talk now with a new passion that touches revenge.

It is the place itself, the lanes and broken buildings that have been crushed into the mud, the mass grave that is now a building site, the breeze block villa that now stands beside what is left of the execution wall.

Two years ago we climbed over a pile of bodies not far from the camp gate, physically walked over a rampart of dead people. Someone has built their home there now, on the very place of horror. It is as if the awful history of Sabra and Chatila has been absorbed into the ground, with its broken drains and miniature swamps.

The pit where they finally buried those hundreds of Palestinian dead whose bodies still littered the camp on September 18, 1982, is still there, black flags drooping like carrion at the concrete entrance.

The bodies were put there, bound up in cloth and sprayed with quicklime by young men in plastic face masks, and those of us who watched it then wondered at the time if the truth of what happened would be buried so quickly. We didn't realise that it was the camp itself rather than the people who would be transformed.

Most of the survivors still live there, widows with bullet holes in the front door to remind them of the slaughter of husbands and sons.

They are frightened still, many of them, unable to leave the squalid huts in which they live, peering at you like birds of prey over walls and round doors. A middle-aged woman on the road running down to the Sabra mosque rests her chin on a low stone wall, staring at strangers, a decapitated face on a wall that sheds tears when you ask how many of her family died.

There was one son, she says, and a second and a third son, and her father and a brother, and a second brother. Then she wipes her hands across her face.

Her daughter Sawassan survived. She is a small girl of 14 in a blue dress who talks high-pitched like a sparrow, a refrain that has become

practiced, almost a monotone until she speaks of the Christian Phalangists allies, the men who butchered their way into the camp two years ago. Then Sawassan's voice moves up in pitch.

"My wish is for a Phalangist to come here now," she shouts. "Then I would kill him with a knife and take my revenge."

It takes a lot to make Amnah Shehadi talk, but eventually she sits down on a torn bed in her back yard with her surviving children around her, preaching her evidence. She has hardly left her home since the Phalangists came in 1982 and took her son Samir away.

She has never seen his body but wishes she had so she could take her revenge. She says she wants to *afay* - "to crime" - a crippled slang Arabic that has something deeply threatening about it.

Amnah Shehadi has not even a carpet on the floor of her one room home. Her husband Muhammad is unemployed, except when he can sell water melons part time. Her daughter Hannan is three and cries the moment you approach her, big tears that seem to run down her face all the time, from large frightened eyes. They say she has been like this since the massacre.

There is too much dust in Chatila, stirred by the old trucks and the hot breeze that carries the stench of sewers just once it died the smell of bodies.

But you get lost in Chatila now. Where two years ago we found three women and a baby with their throats cut in the ruins, there is a sandy wasteland of Bedouin tents and a tall girl in a scarf, watching, lying on the ground near by is a woman, picking lice out of a boy's hair.

Up a little road from here we had found scores of boys, all shot in the back. The lane is covered by new huts with a grey building at one end with cheap, metal-framed windows. This is where they had to spray quicklime two years ago.

Just next to the house is a piece of chipped and broken concrete, all that is left of the execution wall. Perhaps Chatila is burying itself.

Robert Fisk

